

Tuesday August 20 1996

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The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

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The crime that shamed a nation

Horror in Belgium

G2 with European weather

Has the festival gone over the top?

Edinburgh's excesses

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Education

Exam boards in the firing line

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For his eyes only... Whose were the eyes behind Tony Blair's 'demon' stare in the Conservatives' controversial New Labour, New Danger advertisements? And why was he unhappy about his latest role? Find out on page 3

Legal precedent established in inquest on 20-year-old

Coroner links death from CJD to mad cow disease

Tim Radford and Alex Bellis

A CORONER created a legal precedent yesterday by linking beef contaminated with mad cow disease to the death of a 20-year-old from a new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease.

The North Durham coroner, Geoffrey Burt, said the death of Peter Hall, who died of CJD in February, was caused on the "balance of probabilities" by something like a beefburger infected with BSE.

It is thought to be the first time that the connection between CJD and BSE has been made in the courts, and it will put pressure on the Government for a public inquiry into mad cow disease and its equivalent in humans.

All previous inquests of CJD cases have had verdicts of death by natural causes. Mr Burt's decision to record a verdict of misadventure — because the death came about "through an outside course" — may open the door to relatives taking legal action against the Government.

The coroner said that there was no scientific proof for a link between BSE and CJD but in a court the burden of proof was less stringent. He said: "I am satisfied it is more likely than not that Peter contracted this disease prior to 1990 due to eating some form of contaminated beef product, probably a product such as a beefburger."

Peter's parents applauded the verdict, saying it furthered their campaign for a public inquiry. His mother Frances said: "I was surprised but very pleased that the coroner was so brave and open-minded. We will carry on fighting for the Government to recognise there has been a

problem for many years which should have been dealt with. Our son died because of their mistakes."

A Department of Health spokesman said last night: "Our position remains unaltered. There is no scientific proof that human beings can contract CJD from beef."

Peter, of Chester-le-Street, was one of 10 cases of a new strain of CJD announced earlier this year. He became the "public face" of concern about the disease because his parents had filmed his decline, which was broadcast on television.

He was forced to abandon his degree course at Sunderland University due to deteriorating health.

His case was also picked up because he had been a vegetarian since 1990, when he saw a television programme about cruelty to animals.

His father Derek said: "Before that he liked beefburgers as a quick snack when he came home from school at lunchtime. He liked brisket, too, and we would have that more often than not on a Sunday."

The discovery of the new form of CJD precipitated a new crisis for British farmers, and for the Government. For almost a decade from the discovery of BSE in a British dairy herd in 1986, ministers and health officials had insisted that there was no chance of infection of humans by "mad cow disease."

But the announcement on March 20 specifically confirmed a pattern of brain damage in human victims that was very close to BSE. More alarmingly, the new strain showed up in people younger than 40. Classical CJD is both rare, and hitherto has been found only in the elderly. Only one of the 10 original sufferers is now still alive.



Peter Hall in his student days and (below) in the final stages of illness shortly before he died from CJD early this year

Robert Perry, who conducted the post-mortem, said Peter had contracted an "unusual" form of CJD which in many ways resembled the condition known as Kurru found in the Fore tribe in south-east Asia. He explained that members of that tribe performed a ritualistic form of cannibalism in which human flesh was eaten and it was thought the disease was acquired as a result of this.

James Ironside, of the Medical Research Council's CJD surveillance unit, said in Edinburgh last night: "The hypothesis that this disorder is causally related to BSE has not been proven and nor will the proof — if it ever becomes available — be known to us in the near future."

'Scrap civil list in return for Crown Estates cash'

Survival plan for monarchy

Vivek Chaudhary

THE Queen could increase her income more than sixfold under proposals being discussed by the royal family to scrap the civil list in return for money generated from the Crown Estates.

The proposal is one of five under consideration, which would radically alter the constitutional position of the monarchy and attempt to restore its public popularity as it approaches the millennium.

Buckingham Palace confirmed yesterday that senior members of the royal family, including the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and their advisers, are involved in discussions on the development of the monarchy.

According to some reports, the advisers, known as the Way Ahead Group, met twice a year and formed before recent promises by the Labour leader, Tony Blair, to review the monarchy's role if Labour wins power.

One of the most controversial proposals under discussion is the scrapping of the £8.7 million civil list in return for the restoration to the royals of the Crown Estates. These include prime sites such as London's Regent Street and more than 300,000 acres of valuable land, which last year produced an income of £94.5 million.

Even if the Queen is taxed on the money at the upper rate of 40 per cent, she would receive more than £5 million, representing a considerable increase in her income and making her financially independent of the state.

- ### Royal revolution
- Scrapping the £8.7m-a-year Civil List payments in return for the restoration to the royals of the Crown Estates which produce an annual income of £94.5m.
 - Allowing women equal rights to succeed to the throne.
 - Streamlining the royal family to include only the monarch, the consort, their children and those grandchildren who are direct heirs to the throne.
 - Allowing heirs to the throne to marry Catholics.
 - Ending the monarchy's traditional role as head of the Church of England.

Buckingham Palace refused to comment yesterday on whether other expenses, such as maintaining the royal yacht and train, foreign trips and hosting state banquets, would be met from the Queen's own funds or continue to be met by the government if the proposals are accepted by Parliament.

It was being suggested last night that Treasury estimates of the cost of running the royal family came close to the £55 million figure.

Other plans include ending the law of primogeniture, which forbids first born females of the royal family from succeeding to the throne; streamlining the royal family to include only the monarch, the consort, their children and those grandchildren who are direct heirs to the throne; allowing heirs to the throne to marry Catholics; and ending the monarchy's traditional role as head of the Church of England.

The Labour MP Tony Benn claimed yesterday that the proposals were designed to strengthen the position of the

royal family at a time of increased public criticism.

He said that the proposal to scrap the civil list in return for money from the Crown Estates would be met with opposition in Parliament.

Mr Benn added: "The strategy is to defuse criticism by giving the impression of modernising when actually what she (the Queen) is doing is consolidating. By sacking a few minor royals and discussing these other proposals, the Crown is being strengthened."

The Crown Estates were handed over to the government in 1980 and money generated from them has gone directly to the chancellor.

A Buckingham Palace spokeswoman refused yesterday to reveal further details of the proposals being discussed by the royal family.

She said: "It is a process of discussion of major issues, involving the government as necessary. When they meet, they discuss programme priorities and policy issues covering a wide range of areas."

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"One of the reasons the monarchy has lasted for over 1,000 years is that it is able to adapt and change as necessary, whilst retaining the overwhelming public support it enjoys."

Constitutional expert Vernon Bogdanor said: "The sovereign would be more independent if she were being financed from her own revenue. There is a case for the financial independence of the monarchy — it would stop the squabbles about the civil list. The handing back of the Crown Estates raises a very important constitutional point."

David Starkey, a constitutional expert based at the London School of Economics, said: "These proposals would allow the royal family to have completely private lives — they are being privatised. The Queen is admitting that the whole idea of a family monarchy is dead."

'Car she blows' as police aim to spear speeding Finns

The harpoon may solve a whale of a problem on the roads, writes Jon Henley in Helsinki

EXASPERATED by their inability to win high-speed car chases in a nation that has produced more than its fair share of world champion rally drivers, Finnish police have come up with a more forceful approach — ramming would-be runaways from behind with a four-foot steel harpoon.

"My initial impression is that this is revolutionary — a real breakthrough," said constable Markus Kuisinen from the northern city of Oulu, where the device is being tested.

"Usually we put out spiked mats to halt escaping vehicles, but Finnish drivers are pretty handy in hazardous conditions and just swerve round them."

"As a last resort we can shoot out their tyres, but unless the driver is exceptionally good that can be dangerous. This looks like a perfect solution."

Oulu's chief superintendent of police, Seppo Pipponen, said he was convinced his force's invention had a future. "There is a real need for a means of stopping a runaway vehicle forcibly but safely, without injuring bystanders," he said. "Why shouldn't harpooning a car work? It works with whales, and they're a lot bigger."

Unlike an ordinary harpoon, which is fired at the target, this version is bolted to the front of a specially reinforced patrol car. The harpoon is fitted with hydraulically operated steel bars that release automatically once it has punctured the quarry's boot, locking the two vehicles together.

The inventors, who say they will apply for patents if it attracts interest from other police forces, claim it leaves only a small, easily repaired hole a few inches in diameter.

"It is quite safe because it isn't long enough to hit anyone sitting in the back seat," said sergeant Markku Limingoja, one of the weapon's developers. "And if it does break off for some reason, we have fitted a radio transmitter in the shaft so we can track the escaping vehicle wherever it goes."

A useful additional refinement — although it is yet to be properly tested —

is a tear gas nozzle concealed in the harpoon's tip, Mr Limingoja said. "We're not quite sure if this bit will work yet," he explained. "But the basic idea is that if the runaway is armed or dangerous, we can temporarily incapacitate them before they do any more damage."

Senior police officials and traffic experts from the Finnish interior ministry, who are due to see the harpoon in action over the next few weeks, were not quite sure about the notion. "It sounds a bit like Mad Max," said a ministry spokesman. "But we'll certainly have a look."



Inside

Britain
Hopes were fading for two children who police fear may have been swept out to sea at Holme in Norfolk at the start of their holiday.

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President Clinton stepped back from blanket vows against raising taxes and began to attack Republican proposals for massive cuts.

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Finance

The shoe industry looked set to lose 430 more jobs as the British operation of Chamberlain Phipps was put into receivership.

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Derby went to the top of the County Championship for the first time this season with Kent also winning to go two points behind.

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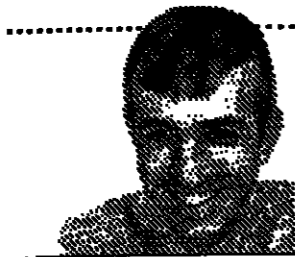
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Sketch

Trust Mr Darcy to arouse interest



David Ward

PIPE down, Miss Austen. This is nothing to do with you. The intention here is to provide an informative salute to those self-effacing stewards who diligently watch over visitors to National Trust properties...

wonder why some of our visitors come," mused Mike Bird as he waited for the first of the day's crop. "They pay their money and wander straight through, seeing nothing."

Yes, Miss Austen, we know that the increase was due in part to the filming of scenes from Pride and Prejudice at the hall and in its park. But this column is not going to hang on about Mr Darcy in a soggy grandstand. Go and have a cup of Earl Grey in the Servants' Quarters tea room.

Allen Southern is to take over from other stewards when they take a tea break. But he finds time to point out in the Bright Gallery a picture of a colonel in the Lancashire Light Dragoons...

"That man had seven children by seven different women," explained Mr Southern. "Or was it nine children by nine women? I must check that."

Nineteen stewards were on duty yesterday and most confessed to amazement at the leisure wear of the average Englishman.

Please don't mention clothes of wiles Miss Austen will drag us up to the Birch Room where P and P costumes are on display. "I sometimes

Review

First flight on an allegorical course

Stuart Jeffries

Star Trek - The Cage BBC2

STAR Trek did holdily go even during its first voyage in a 1964 pilot. The show's creator, Gene Roddenberry, had sold the idea to NBC of a Wagon Train in deep space, filled with intergalactic gunfighters and cosmic fisticuffs.

What he delivered, though, was a contemplative drama, admittedly filled with state-of-the-art effects and a groovy spaceship, but one that delighted in metaphysical musing and ethical disquisition. It wasn't quite as slow-burning as Tarkovsky's Solaris, nor as obviously allegorical as Ray Bradbury, but it had a reflective quality that fully inhered by Star Trek: The Next Generation and Deep Space Nine.

Rodenberry saw himself as a Swiftian social critic, his Lilliput the final frontier, his cruel kings aliens beset by the character flaws he saw in the worst humans of his time - power lust, corruption and racism. It was a critique of American, if not all human, society from the safe perspective of the future, with grim thoughts about human mortality thrown in for good measure. NBC was as scared as hell.

Worse, there was a woman first officer. Spock had to be content with the No 2 slot and much more bushy eyebrows. Only in the second episode, Where No Man Has Gone Before, did the scriptwriters rid him of emotion, but even then he looked desolate when Kirk

beat him at three-dimensional chess. This became an absorbing sub-plot for many years: how could a human actor, Leonard Nimoy, convince us he was an emotionally-challenged pointy lug when he had the most expressive, question-begging eyebrows in the galaxy?

In the pilot, Spock joined the captain in delighted appreciation of a planet's blue flora, and smiled: it was more uncanny than any of the sci-fi scams that followed. Instead, it was the female No 1 who had no emotions, who was compared to a computer, no doubt reflecting fears of powerful women. Don't forget, boys: women aren't from Venus, they're from Vulcan.

It was fascinating to watch the pilot, broadcast here as a prelude to BBC2's Star Trek evening next Monday which celebrates the TV series' 30-year anniversary. It took us back to our future, tracking its differences from the USS Enterprise's later incarnations.

Who were that couple walking down the ship's corridors, the woman in a pleated skirt, the man in shorts, heading off, no doubt, to a Peter, Paul and Mary concert? Who was that man sitting in Kirk's chair? It was Star Trek, but not as we know it. Jim.

One can quite see why Captain Christopher Pike (Jeffrey Hunter) had to be replaced: he would have looked happier with a horse between his legs and that granite jaw shadowed by a stemon. William Shatner, who succeeded him as the ship's captain, was more mutable, ironic, winning. Which was precisely Star Trek's impact on science fiction.

Lawyers say sentences are getting longer as courts heed Home Secretary's call to get tough



GEORGE SANSOM: convicted of cocaine importation in 1995, jailed for 30 years. Accused of having organised the marketing of cocaine imported from Venezuela. Told by Judge Andrew Brooks he "must be told in the clearest possible terms... the courts will show no mercy."



TOMAS HONZ: convicted of heroin importation at Southwark crown court and jailed for 26 years. Co-defendants Musliem Sinsek jailed for 30 years, Ali Akta, who pleaded guilty, for 20 years, and Hussein Kaymack for 24 years.



DEREK DOHERTY: from County Dublin, convicted of conspiracy to cause explosions as part of the IRA's mainland campaign. Was said to have planted 12 bombs in London in 1993. Jailed at the Old Bailey for 25 years.



SEAN McNULTY: construction worker, convicted in 1994 over the bombings of an Esso oil refinery in North Shields and a British Gas depot on Tyneside in 1993. Jailed for 25 years.



MURDERER: automatic life sentence but trial judge sets tariff. Average murderer on release has served a 15.4 year sentence. Lowest end of sentences for murder is six years, highest is life without parole, served by only small minority.

Cousin of footballer 'effectively sentenced to death for offence he did not commit after unfair trial' as steep rise in tariffs sets new records in prison terms

Judges 'rate drugs worse than murder'

Family stage demo for cocaine smuggler sentenced to 30 years

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

DRUG smugglers will have to serve longer jail sentences than IRA bombers, murderers and rapists, according to lawyers for a man jailed for 30 years for cocaine smuggling who claims he is innocent.

The family of George Sansom, 42, a flower market trader from Dulwich, south London have organised a demonstration outside the Royal Courts of Justice in London today. He and Coleman Mulkerrens, aged 53, from Twickenham were jailed for 30 years at Snaresbrook crown court, east London, last November after a trial at Norwich crown court.

Financial brains behind a £125 million cocaine smuggling operation. It was alleged that they had organised a ship loaded with 795 kilos of cocaine to sail from Venezuela to London. Six men were arrested at Southwark crown court, south London in 1993. Sansom and Mulkerrens were then arrested.

halted after a juror expressed his unhappiness at the 24-hour guard. After the trial, Mulkerrens' lawyer, James Saunders, said the jail term was effectively a death sentence. "He will be 73 before he is entitled to apply for parole."

jailed at Southwark crown court for 30, 26, 24 and 20 years for importing 198.5 kilos of heroin, the second largest haul in Britain. Last December, coach firm director Trevor Haskayne was jailed for 18 years at Maidstone crown court for smuggling £5 million of Ecstasy and £600,000 of speed.

the drugs and legal advice organisation, said: "We have noticed a general stiffening of sentences over the last two years." He said that a 19-year-old had been jailed for 10 years for trafficking Ecstasy. The current guidelines for judges suggest 14 years and upwards for importing 50,000 Ecstasy tablets or more; 10 years for importing massive quantities of cannabis; 14 years and upwards for more than five kilos of heroin and other Class A drugs.

It may be hot, but it's not warming, says Tory think-tank

Paul Brown Environment Correspondent

TEMPERATURES topped 30C in many places in Britain yesterday, hotter than many Mediterranean resorts and enough to melt the tarmac on the M25.



As temperatures soared yesterday, children could not resist the dangerous leap from a groyne near the Palace Pier at Brighton. PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW HASSON

Store boss's £3.5m pay package

Roger Cowe

ARCHIE NORMAN, the populist chief executive of the Asda supermarket chain, received pay and share options worth almost £3.5 million last year, according to the company's annual report published yesterday.

share options for all staff, who are known as "colleagues". He joined Asda from the Woolworth, Comet and B&Q group, Kingfisher, after an MBA from Harvard and an initial career with top management consultants McKinsey.

Other executive directors also cashed in similar options and received over a million new options at just 0.1p each. In his annual report to shareholders, Mr Norman says that the company's success depends on committed staff.



Archie Norman: grabbed back Asda's market share

Japan's oldest geisha dies after 90 years of entertaining the rich

Andrew Higgins In Hong Kong

JAPAN'S oldest geisha, the last authentic link with an exquisitely demure tradition of song, dance and refined repartee now eclipsed by raunchy night clubs and hostess bars, has died in Tokyo, aged 102. She worked almost to the end.

ter, Hideo Tojo, to the Honda company's founder, Soichiro Honda. But in recent years, few Japanese men have had the money and classical training needed to enjoy the highly-styled and hugely expensive pastime known as geisha-asoba - "playing with geisha".

Beggars angry as Melbourne's Big Issue increases circulation

Christopher Zinn In Melbourne

THE Australian version of the Big Issue has been on the streets of Melbourne for a only few weeks but travellers who have sold the London magazine have already offered their services as vendors.

not just needing some extra money," said the distribution manager Suzanne Bodnar. The city's few beggars are allegedly angry their receipts have fallen as the circulation of the Big Issue has gone up. The magazine, modelled on its British cousin, prints 10,000 copies a fortnight. It works on the same principle and sells for \$2 (about £1), of which the vendor keeps half.

'Somebody once asked me whether my first sexual experience was heterosexual or homosexual. I replied that I was too polite to ask' GORE VIDAL

Handwritten signature or text at the bottom of the page.



The missing children, Tom and Jodi Loughlin. 'Obviously, we cannot exclude the possibility that they could have been washed out to sea,' said police as the search continued yesterday

Hopes fade for lost children

Air, land and sea search fails to find any trace of girl, aged 6, and her four-year-old brother

James Meikle

HOPES were fading last night for two children who were last seen on an East Anglian beach on Sunday afternoon. Police and coastguards fear Jodi Loughlin, aged six, and her brother Tom, four, may have been swept out to sea. The children vanished at the start of a holiday at Holme, near Hunstanton, Norfolk. No trace has been found despite an intensive search.

Police said a holidaymaker saw two children playing alone in the surf at Old Hunstanton — about a mile from where Jodi and Tom were last seen — at around 6.30pm on Sunday. She told police she glanced at the children 15 minutes after first seeing them and could then see no sign of the boy. Her description of the children fitted that of Jodi and Tom, who were wearing swimsuits, who could not swim. About 100 members of the rescue services used two helicopters, thermal imaging

equipment, boats and tracker dogs as they searched the sea, dunes, cliffs, salt marshes, beaches and a local golf course along a four-mile stretch of coast including the nearby villages of Hunstanton and Thornham. Superintendent John Hale, of Norfolk police, said: "Sadly, there is absolutely no indication of the presence of the children. Nothing at all. Obviously, we cannot exclude the possibility that they could have been washed out to sea." Jodi and Tom were last seen by their parents, computer consultant Kevin Loughlin and Lynette Thornton, running towards the sea at about 5.30 on Sunday afternoon, the first beach visit of a week's holiday from their home in south London.

After two hours fruitless searching, the couple alerted rescue service who, with the help of coastguards and volunteers, scoured the area until the early hours of yesterday morning. The search was resumed at 5am, aided by a dog team from the Derbyshire mountain rescue service and lasted until dusk. Mr Hale said Mr Loughlin and Ms Thornton "have been extremely brave and controlled and their courage is tremendous". He added: "The last sighting by the father was very, very shortly after they arrived. The children were very quickly changed and straight down to the water's edge." Police earlier said there was nothing to suggest that the youngsters had been ab-

ducted. The children were not carrying buckets and spades and were not likely to have been digging in the sand, a potential hazard in dunes in that area. Locals say the tide is not especially fast, but the uneven beach can catch out the unwary paddler. Coastguards, who are running an "On the beach, keep your kids in reach" campaign, said nine children became separated from their parents on the beach at Hunstanton on Sunday and two more were briefly missing at nearby Brancaster today. Coastguard sector officer Colin Tomlinson said: "Parents should never let children out of their sight or out of their reach on a beach because the sea is always dangerous."

In a separate accident, the body of an eight-year-old boy was found on the beach at Trustrorpe, Lincolnshire, early yesterday. He had been reported missing from the local Sutton Springs Holiday Camp. Police said there were no suspicious circumstances. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents responded to the death and to the missing children by issuing advice on beach safety. It said children should be supervised at all times; the location should be checked with the local tourist office about potential hazards; and beaches patrolled by life guards should be chosen; inflatable airbeds or toys should not be taken on to the sea; and parents should stop children tunnelling into sand dunes.

Belgium to act on sex offenders

Stephen Bates in Brussels

THE Belgian government bowed to public pressure yesterday and announced tougher punishment for paedophiles in the wake of increasingly grim revelations about Marc Dutroux, a builder aged 39, who has admitted abducting teenage girls. The justice minister, Stefan de Clerck, pledged to make it harder for paedophiles to be released from jail early, and to investigate possible links with an international conspiracy. "We are looking for paedophile networks all over the world," he said. "We have found a problem in Belgium but we are looking for connections." His statement came as hundreds of people queued outside a funeral parlour near Liege to pay their last respects to Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo, both aged eight, whose bodies were dug up at one of Mr Dutroux's homes at the weekend. A wave of public anger and emotion is running through the country at allegations of police incompetence, and political indifference in the highest levels of government about long-standing fears that a gang of paedophile abductors may be at large.

Discovery of the bodies of the two eight-year-olds brought to seven the number of dead girls found at different locations after a series of disappearances dating from 1989. Police last week rescued two teenage girls imprisoned in a secret room at Mr Dutroux's home, but six children are still missing. Mr Dutroux and his lodger, Michel Lelievre, have already been charged with abduction. Mr Dutroux's wife, Michele Martin, a former teacher and mother of his two small children, was yesterday also formally charged with being an accomplice to the girls' kidnapping. A fourth detainee, Jean-Michel Nihoul, a Brussels estate agent, is expected to be charged today. Mr De Clerck said it would be more difficult for sex offenders to win parole in future, and that supervision after they left prison would be tightened up. "Our country is in a state of shock," he said. A prison commission would examine the cases of all sex offenders before they were released, and there would be more secure units for offenders. "Magistrates will also have to be integrated into the system of releasing people." Referring to Mr Dutroux's case, Mr de Clerck said it was not the decision to release him early which had been at fault, but the administrative procedures that led to it. "Everything was formally respected. The problem was the difference between administrative procedures and reality." Because of professional secrecy rules, "there was no psychiatric report as such" on Mr Dutroux available for those assessing whether he was safe to be released into society, he said. "That's a problem we'll have to look at."

Last Thursday Mr Dutroux led police to a hidden room in the cellar of his home near Charleroi, in southern Belgium, where they found Leticia Delhez, aged 14, and Sabine Dardeenne, aged 12. Both girls were alive but had been drugged and sexually assaulted. Much worse was his admission that Melissa and Julie, who were abducted in June last year, were allowed to starve to death while he was in prison for four months last winter. There was a national outcry when it was revealed that Mr Dutroux was a convicted child sex offender who had been released 10 years early in 1982 from a 19-year prison sentence, despite the opposition of the public prosecutor. Mr de Clerck's predecessor, Melchior Wathelet, who is currently on holiday in Italy, has taken the brunt of public criticism for his decision to free Mr Dutroux early, and for relaxing the release regulations for sex offenders. The police have also been strongly criticised after admitting that they searched Mr Dutroux's house at least twice last year without finding the girls. They also failed to find the kidnapped teenagers when they searched the house early last week. Yesterday they stepped up their hunt for two further teenage girls, Ann Marchal, aged 19, and Eefje Lambreks, aged 17. Mr Dutroux has admitted abducting them near Ostend a year ago. He told police he thinks the girls are still alive but are no longer in the country.

Cabinet panel split over ID card

Major may be forced to back Howard and use symbol of Union on proof of identity

Michael White Political Editor

ACABINET committee yesterday failed to resolve the "flags and symbols" dispute over the proposed national identity card, leaving John Major with little choice but to back Michael Howard's insistence that the Union flag should be incorporated in the new design. With Northern Ireland min-

isters reluctant to inflame nationalist sensibilities by conceding to the Home Secretary's pressure, the Prime Minister is caught between a rock and a hard place in which the only available compromise would be to let ID cards in Northern Ireland be different from those in Britain. That could annoy rightwing Tory MPs and activists almost as much as the concession whereby the European Union's 12 star flag is certain

to feature on the card since it is likely to double as a Euro-harmonised driving licence. The Department of Transport, also present at yesterday's abortive committee meeting, already plans to start issuing plastic, credit card size licences from next year for use throughout the EU. Ministers are keen to charge voters up to £15 for an ID card, hardly an incentive according to wary MPs on both sides. In reality they were planning to charge drivers for the new driving licence anyway and an ID card could be incorporated into it. It is now free to anyone who

has paid £21 for a provisional licence, but £5 to replace lost licences. Added to this, national sensibilities have been stirred with Sir Patrick Mayhew's Stormont deputy, Michael Ancram, again warning yesterday's committee that an ID/driver licence bearing the symbolic Union flag would cause problems. Some Tory MPs feel the same about the EU's 12 stars but, after protracted negotiations, the current Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, agreed that it would be in the top left corner with the letters UK or EU equivalent — printed inside the logo.

'Demon' eyes belong to Blair fan

James Meikle

IF NOTHING else, the eyes have it. Scott Woods, sometime waiter, former hotel manager and often out-of-work actor yesterday revealed his starring, indeed starring, role as the demon Tony Blair in the 42-year-old Labour supporter knew he was working for a Conservative Party advertising campaign when he accepted a fee of about £200. But he thought his eyes were to be used glaring from behind a curtain rather than in the New Labour, New Danger "demon Blair" poster which has been roundly condemned. "It was only when I saw the eyes transposed on Tony Blair that I was surprised and felt some anger," said the actor. "I admire the man. I look forward to hav-

ing him as Prime Minister." The personal attack went too far, said Mr Woods, whose screen performances include playing a pirate in Ken Russell's Treasure Island last year and as a security guard in The Fifth Element, a science fiction film led by Bruce Willis. "I am a Labour voter but an out-of-work actor as well. Work is work. I did not think it was going to be used in this way and I did not expect this controversy." Mr Woods, who lives in Hackney, east London, said political campaigning should be about principles not personalities. The poster job, which lasted about two hours, was his first gained through the Ugly Showbiz Agency. He said he was not told, even by the production company which also filmed him on video, that his eyes might be substituted for Mr Blair's.



Tony Blair and Scott Woods: 'My eyes are evil, not Blair's' He wore blue contact lenses over his already blue eyes and was told these would be touched up into red later by computer. "It is my eyes that are evil and demonic, not Tony Blair's. It is a role I play." That role, part of a campaign directed by M&C Saatchi and authorised by the Tory chairman, Brian Mawhinney, looks short-lived. Their appearance has split Tory opinion and the Advertising Standards Authority is investigating. "It is not an easy life," said Mr Woods. "If I have to wait tables again, I will wait tables." But he does have some work lined up in a film called The Lighthouse — playing a serial killer.

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"I was at a Quaker boarding school which fosters a degree of serious thought about the world, because Quakers think seriously about things, and every year since then I think I've become more and more frivolous."

Breakfast News anchorman Justin Webb

G2 page 7



If Queen Victoria had been succeeded by her first child, her daughter Victoria (right), the present queen would be a woman who calls herself a 'poor little hausfrau from Hamburg'. Further back, a change in the rule of succession would have put Margaret Tudor (left) on the throne of England in place of Henry VIII



PICTURES: MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY

Jewel in crown of Queen's finances

Crown Estate could give royals independence

Ruaridh Nicoll looks at source of wealth

FROM the high street of Tomintoul — Britain's highest village — the Glenlivet estate spreads purple into the hills. About 57,000 acres of the Highlands, it is set in the Cairngorms, the most precious part of Britain. From these hills pours Glenlivet water, bringing with it a flow of cash in royalties and rents which pools in the coffers of the Treasury. Glenlivet estate, which belongs to no one, its ownership a convoluted mix between the monarch and the commoners. For now the profits are for the benefit of the taxpayer but the monarchy seems to want them for its own. But Glenlivet produces just a trickle of cash compared to the enormous Crown Estate. That owns Regent Street in central London stretching from Piccadilly to Oxford Street, farmland and forestry from Dunster to East Anglia, some of the highest moorland in Scotland, 33 per cent of the coast between the high and low water marks and even the seabed. Last year it ploughed £24.5 million into the Treasury and that was pure profit. The news that the royal family is prepared to give up the £2.8 billion Civil List for the Crown Estate was swallowed up by other proposals by a so-called Way Ahead

Paying the Queen

How it is now	How it might be
<p>The Civil List £3.8m is paid annually to eight royals from public funds. The Queen receives £1.2m of this that is earmarked for lesser royals.</p>	<p>The Crown Estates Includes some 300,000 acres of agricultural land, extensive urban properties, the sea bed around the British Isles and 55% of the coastline. Last year this provided an income of £24.6m. This currently goes to the Treasury. It is suggested that the Civil List be scrapped and the Queen keep the savings from the Crown Estates. The future of the Duchy of Lancaster is unknown.</p>
<p>The Duchy of Lancaster The Privy Purse, which provides for the Queen's private and public expenses, raised £3.9m in 1994 from some 50,000 acres of estates known as the Duchy of Lancaster.</p>	<p>The Duchy of Lancaster The Privy Purse, which provides for the Queen's private and public expenses, raised £3.9m in 1994 from some 50,000 acres of estates known as the Duchy of Lancaster.</p>

Group made up of the senior royals. Politically sensitive issues such as the ability of the monarch to marry a Catholic and scrapping the role as head of the Church of England grabbed the headlines. But money is the key — and the Crown Estate is the pot of gold that would allow the family to escape the public's "we pay for you" cry. Yesterday the financiers at the estate's office in London were not quite sure of the what was happening to the estate's ownership. They say the estate is "not the property of the Government, nor the sovereign's private estate. It is part of the hereditary possessions of the sovereign in right of the crown." Asked what that meant one staff member said: "Well, it's a bit like the crown jewels, but not quite." The estate, which was started by Edward the Confessor when he came to power in 1042, is an example of the convoluted history of the monarchy and Parliament. It provided an income to the kings and queens of England until 1789 when King George III passed the annual profits to Parliament in exchange for the Civil List and the estate found itself caught somewhere between the two constitutional bodies. In 1861 the position was clarified by an Act of Parliament. It is governed by up to

Change would have little effect on who is in line

Martin Linton on 'curse of elder sisters'

IT WOULD be easy for the Windsors to end the law of male succession since they have escaped from that traditional curse of royal families — elder sisters. The Queen has an eldest son. So does the Prince of Wales. In fact, there is not a single case of an elder sister with a younger brother in the entire clan of the Mountbatten Windsors. Even in the more far-flung branches of the family, the Gloucesters and the Kents, the same pattern appears to repeat itself: two

sors would not have been there in the first place if the succession had always been by primogeniture alone. The present Queen would have been a distant cousin at best. If Queen Victoria had been succeeded by her first child, her daughter, Victoria, the present Queen would be in the position of a woman who describes herself as "a poor little hausfrau from Hamburg". Princess Felicitas Cecilie Alexandrine Helene Dorothea von Nostitz-Wallwitz, aged 62, a retired economist, is the successor of Queen Victoria by strict law of primogeniture. She comes from a line that has produced more daughters than sons. Her father, grandson of the last Kaiser, had two daughters. She has three daughters and a son and her eldest daughter, Friederika, also has three daughters. But she would only have been Queen now if male succession had ended in the reign of Queen Victoria. There were many other kings who took the throne from elder sisters. George III had an older sister, Augusta, who married the Duke of Brunswick-Wolfenbuttel. Charles I was another imposter. He had an elder sister, Elizabeth, who married the King of Bohemia. Henry VIII had an elder sister, Margaret, who married James IV of Scotland and in the end it was Margaret's descendant, James VI, who succeeded Elizabeth as James I of England. In the medieval period, Henry IV had an elder sister, Philippa, who married the King of Portugal, and the ill-fated Edward II was dominated by two elder sisters and a murderous wife. The original establishment of the line of succession was when Henry I's only daughter, Matilda, tried to claim the throne after his death. Although she failed, she established her claim in what is often seen as a blow for female succession. But her rival Stephen could claim as much. He was the son of Henry's elder sister Adela. He was defending the right of female succession.

Catholic Church welcomes succession review as end to 'peculiar anachronism'

Martin Linton clearly the Queen has no difficulty with us, so it is a peculiarity to have it still written into the constitution. The Act of Succession of 1701 lays down that the monarch cannot be a Roman Catholic, and neither the monarch nor the heir to the throne can marry a Catholic. There are two further restrictions: members of the royal family must ask the Queen's permission if they wish to marry a Catholic, and the Lord Chancellor would have to give up certain eccle-

siastical responsibilities if he were a Catholic. Lord St John of Fawsley, an authority on the monarchy, said the bar was "an infringement of the human rights of the royal family and somewhat insulting to the Catholic community". But he warned: "I do not think it would be desirable for the Queen to end her role as head of the Church of England. She is supreme governor and that is right and proper. Abandoning that role would mean disestablishment and it would seem like a public repudiation of religion." The test was on a sample of the plasma that was to be used to make immunoglobulin — an immune system booster used to fight hepatitis commonly given to travellers and holidaymakers. Other parts of the plasma pool had already been used to manufacture Factor Eight, which is given to haemophiliacs, and albumin, used to treat people with burns and shock. The batches contained about 2,000 bottles of Factor Eight and 11,500 of albumin.

Gay dismissal claim adjourned

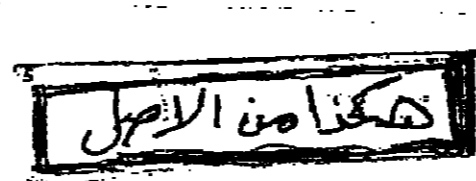
CLAIM by 18 ex-military personnel that the Ministry of Defence unfairly dismissed them for being gay was adjourned by an industrial tribunal yesterday. Chairman John Warren ruled that the tribunal should wait until the divisional court reaches a decision on the case of Terence Perkins, a leading medical assistant in the Royal Navy sacked because of his sexual orientation. But Mr Warren, recognising a ruling may not be reached until the new year, spoke of the need "to try and move these things along". The ministry's regulations against homosexuals in the services were still in force

Union warns of asbestos risk in schools

THE National Union of Teachers warned yesterday that asbestos posed a risk to pupils and staff at many schools in England and Wales. Doug McAvoey, the general secretary, said he was serving a writ on Greenwich education authority in London, claiming negligence over the asbestos-related death of a 37-year-old teacher. The Government had refused to make local authorities check schools for asbestos. "Asbestos is a killer. The Government knows this, yet it fails to take even the simplest action."

'No risk' blood recalled

Chris Millill Medical Correspondent BLOOD products used to treat haemophiliacs and burns victims were recalled yesterday after hepatitis was found in plasma from which they are made. The National Blood Authority said the move was precautionary and the four batches of Factor Eight and albumin posed no risk to patients as they would have gone through viral inactivation processes to make them safe even if they contained a virus. The problem was revealed by a new ultra-sensitive test, known as PCR, required under European Union rules for the manufacture of certain blood products. This identified minute traces of hepatitis C in the plasma pool from which the products were being made by Bio Products Laboratory, part of the NBA. The test was on a sample of the plasma that was to be used to make immunoglobulin — an immune system booster used to fight hepatitis commonly given to travellers and holidaymakers. Other parts of the plasma pool had already been used to manufacture Factor Eight, which is given to haemophiliacs, and albumin, used to treat people with burns and shock. The batches contained about 2,000 bottles of Factor Eight and 11,500 of albumin. An NBA spokeswoman said: "We consulted the Department of Health and felt in the public interest this was the right thing to do. If we find any trace of a virus then we don't use the product." She stressed that patient safety had not been put at risk as manufacturing processes, such as heat treatment and double pasteurisation, would have killed the virus. "Some patients will have received the Factor Eight and albumin but there is no question of these being unsafe, because the manufacturing process involves viral inactivation. Even if they contained the virus, this would have been killed. Patients have not been put at risk."



News in brief

Rhino horn seized in raid

TWO kilos of rhino horn valued at £15,000 was seized at commercial premises in west London yesterday as part of Operation Charn which is aimed at the illegal importation of endangered species...

Open-air drink warnings

A HANDFUL of alleged open-air drinkers in Glasgow yesterday fell foul of the first blanket ban in Britain on drinking in public places...

Holiday medical 'frauds'

FRAUDULENT insurance claims from holidaymakers have included one from a man said to have "lost" 17 appendix operations and another from a woman who claimed to have lost her left eye...

Duke's Greenwich fears

DEFENCE Secretary Michael Portillo was under renewed pressure over the future of the historic Royal Naval College site at Greenwich yesterday after the Duke of Edinburgh wrote about his concerns over the "chaotic" situation at Greenwich...

Pet plans for cemetery

COUNCIL planners have backed plans for a pet-and-people cemetery to be built in Hunsbury, North Devon despite some protests from residents...

Doctors claim disconnections threaten public health • Government insists disease link is unproven

BMA attacks water cut-offs

Chris Millill Medical Correspondent

CALL from doctors to make the disconnection of water supplies illegal because of the risk to public health was yesterday rejected by the Government...

"We have never been able to establish any direct relationship between water disconnection and the spread of communicable diseases in the UK..."

should not be adopted in England, where disconnections have been allowed since 1945. According to the latest report from the water watchdog, Ofwat, supplies to 5,882 homes in England and Wales were cut off last year because of unpaid bills...

science, said: "The fact that the water companies were so easily able to reduce the total numbers of disconnections proves this approach to debt collection is completely unnecessary, apart from being a danger to public health..."

acted about water metering, which could lead to families depriving themselves of adequate supplies. "Water companies are entitled to recover debts, but the supply of water shouldn't be allied to that. Water is too vital a resource to be treated in that way..."

Janet Langdon, of the Water Services Association, said companies should be allowed the sanction of disconnections. "Disconnections were at their lowest level since before privatisation and water companies ensured they did not cut anyone off who genuinely could not pay, she said..."



Net-surfers united... Adrian Philpott and Cindy Irish kiss for the cameras after their wedding in Aberdeen university's medieval chapel yesterday

Marriage made by God and the Net

Erlend Clouston on how a transatlantic computer courtship ended in a ceremony to gladden the hearts of techno-nerds

AN ACER Pentium married a Packard Bell Pentium yesterday in a ceremony that will have gladdened the hearts of techno-nerds everywhere...

four minutes late for the official climax to a courtship which began on May 20 when she interrupted 42-year-old Adrian's on-screen discussion of the film Braveheart...

media pack anxious to witness the possible first stages of a social revolution. Apart from the theoretical prospect of a boom in Internet-induced babies, the Philpott-Irish union was proof to isolated urbanites that Net-surfing can yield more than glazed eyes and an unhealthy pallor...

and 23-year-old Bill. Her two older daughters remained in East Hartford, Connecticut, to welcome their mother and her new husband after a brief Highlands honeymoon. "Our marriage was arranged by the Lord and there is no better match maker" blurted Adrian...

'Folksy' Rabbi Gryn dies at 66

John Ezzard RABBI Hugo Gryn, whose role as a folksy Jewish philosopher on BBC Radio 4 belied his insight and eloquence, has died aged 66, it was announced yesterday...



Hugo Gryn: Man 'can't live three minutes without hope'

The Rev Ernest Res, BBC head of religious broadcasting said: "He had the talent of being able to speak to all manner and conditions of people..."

himself, recalling having told a guest who offered to clear up after dinner: "Don't do that. That's what I've got daughters for..."

Advertisement for Direct Line mortgages. Large 'NO' graphic. Text: arrangement fees, early redemption fees, mortgage indemnity fees, survey fees. wonder the banks and building societies are worried. Includes phone numbers for London, Manchester, and Glasgow.

Advertisement for Gore Vidal Palimpsest. Text: Wonderfully entertaining... it offers all the zing of a Dry Martini without the danger of getting drunk. A MEMOIR. OUT NOW IN ABBACUS PAPERBACK.

Big 'brothers' pull strings in Taiwan

Andrew Higgins in Taipei reports on the upsurge in organised crime and the problems of fighting gangs with political clout

SOMEWHERE in the bowels of Taiwan's violent and increasingly powerful criminal underworld, "the brothers" are gloating over a set of photographs recording their latest exploit...

masked men armed with an automatic rifle and electric stun gun. Gagged, blindfolded and handcuffed, he was bundled into a car and driven to the edge of a cemetery in wooded hills east of Taipei...

The abduction, the second mob-linked assault on an MP in three months, has put a grim spotlight on the power of Taiwan's increasingly fearless underworld of criminal "brothers"...

125 organised crime gangs whose nearly 6,000 members include businessmen and politicians as well as thuggish enforcers.

Vote-buying, much of it funded by shady businessmen with gangland links, taints the ruling KMT and opposition parties. Forty per cent of Taiwan's 883 city and county council members have been indicted for bribery...

Our mobsters are more interested in rigging bids than peddling drugs. It's more lucrative'

apparently fearful of prosecution, President Lee Teng-hui recently demoted Mr Ma to minister without portfolio, a post that makes him less threatening to corrupt power-brokers...

operate to deter other towns from copying his special tax. Convicted of misusing funds raised by his controversial tax, he avoided jail by winning a seat — and immunity — in parliament.

Lebed comes unstuck as troops attack

James Meek in Moscow

RUSSIA'S would-be peacemaker in Chechnya, Alexander Lebed, bowed before the power of the Moscow establishment yesterday and agreed to work with the interior minister he has publicly denounced...

rebels' penetration into Grozny, which resulted in the deaths of 265 federal troops and the wounding of more than 1,000...

Last night, the Chechen rebel spokesman, Movladi Udugov, reported an all-out attack by federal forces on the centre of the capital Grozny, and accused the Russian side of flagrantly violating a truce agreement.

As fighting flared up across Grozny yesterday, rebel sources claimed local Russian commanders had refused to sign an agreement setting up a joint commission to supervise the ceasefire without an undertaking by the separatists to leave the city...



Women in Grozny prepare food outdoors yesterday, making the most of a calm day during the fragile ceasefire

Muslim rebel hugs Ramos and reveals peace deal

AP in Malabang

THE Philippines president and a rebel leader embraced yesterday and announced the settlement of a Muslim rebellion lasting 26 years and costing 150,000 lives.

"We have agreed to end the war," the Muslim leader, Nur Misuari, said after the meeting with President Fidel Ramos. A final peace agreement will be signed in Manila on September 2.

Officials say they plan to integrate 5,500 of the 17,000 guerrillas into the military and 1,500 into the national police.

In a breakthrough in June, Mr Misuari — leader of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) — and government negotiators agreed to a preliminary peace pact to end the fighting. The rebel front will control a new council which will oversee development projects in 14 southern provinces for three years.

Elections will then be held for an autonomous government covering those of the 14 provinces which vote in a plebiscite to join a new Muslim region. The rebels consider these provinces their Muslim homeland, but generations of Christian settlers have come to dominate.

Some members of the Philippines Congress, which must approve portions of the peace plan, have voiced opposition to it. But Mr Misuari said he had received assurances of support from congressional leaders.

The final peace agreement is expected to be finalised in Jakarta, Indonesia, at the end of this month. Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim country, has hosted a series of formal peace talks.

Other Muslim countries have also promised to provide development aid to the southern Philippines if the agreement goes through, but it may not bring complete peace. Two other smaller Muslim rebel groups, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Abu Sayyaf, say they oppose the pact.

No hope in Spain for African boat people

Julia Hayley in Madrid

THE stream of North Africans trying to enter Spain has been swelling, with more than 1,000 "wet-backs" having been detained at sea this year and another 600 ashore, but a humanitarian group estimates this is only a quarter of those who have crossed the Strait this summer.

were approaching the beaches of Tarifa. Yesterday, about two dozen in a tiny boat were picked up. More than 1,000 "wet-backs" have been detained at sea this year and another 600 ashore, but a humanitarian group estimates this is only a quarter of those who have crossed the Strait this summer.

Madrid is also on the defensive. The government raised a storm of protest at the end of July when it deported 103 people gathered in the Spanish North African enclave of Melilla, by loading them on to planes with their hands bound, drugging them with tranquilisers and taking them to the Canary Islands for distribution to their countries of origin.

immigrants were returned to the airport detention centre after complaints were made about their behaviour on the flight.

of the week, but a steady trickle, predominantly Moroccan and Algerians, is likely to continue.

News in brief

Children suffer in Sudan camp

Around 840 children are being held in inhumane conditions at a camp in the Sudanese desert, a human rights organisation said.

Belgrade air crash

A Russian Ilyushin-76 heavy transport plane, carrying 10 crew and two other people, crashed near Belgrade airport in Yugoslavia early yesterday after turning back and attempting an emergency landing. It was believed there were no survivors.

Flood victim

A frightened lion at Liuzhou zoo, south China, was so shocked at the sight of water pouring into its cage that it leaped over and died, becoming the latest victim of widespread flooding.

Legal cannabis

The government of the canton of Zurich approved a proposal

tempt to use eggs from live elephants to produce half-mammoth, half-elfant offspring. Over several generations, a creature genetically close to the prehistoric one could be "bred back," he said. "If successful, we may be able to revive other extinct species using the same process."

Japanese scientists in search of the sperm of a woolly mammoth are planning to fertilise an elephant's eggs and recreate a creature that died out in Siberia after the last ice age.

In a scientific project that has chosen the film Jurassic Park, Kazufumi Goto, a geneticist and veterinarian at Kagoshima university, and his colleague Shoji Okutsu left Japan yesterday for northern Siberia, where mammoth corpses have been preserved in permafrost.

Mr Goto said that finding DNA in good condition would be the key to his at-

tempt to use eggs from live elephants to produce half-mammoth, half-elfant offspring. Over several generations, a creature genetically close to the prehistoric one could be "bred back," he said. "If successful, we may be able to revive other extinct species using the same process."

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Wanted: mammoth DNA

not so ridiculously improbable as to be impossible.

le — infertile. Dr Cocks said. "You would end up with a different animal, which was neither an elephant nor an old mammoth."

Dinosaurs died out 65 million years ago and the idea of retrieving DNA from Tyrannosaurus Rex has so far proved a fantasy. But researchers have dreamt of mammoth resurrection for more than a decade.

"It would be a total freak, of course," Dr Cocks said. "Frankly, it is not something I would wish to see public money invested in. A lot of people would regard this as meddling with nature, and I think ... we could find better things to do with our time and money."

"Antarctic dried fruit normally requires a lot of soaking, in the case of dates at least 10 minutes' hard work with a geology hammer as well."

G2 page 4

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Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

End of line for gang warfare

Phil Gunson in Belize City discovers how the former colony's own version of Dirty Harry cleaned up its LA-style street wars

BELIZE'S largest town (population less than 50,000) had an inner city, Majestic Alley, would be named after the old Majestic Theatre, rather than for any intrinsic majesty of its own, this run-down, weed-infested street is the heart of gangland in the former British colony.

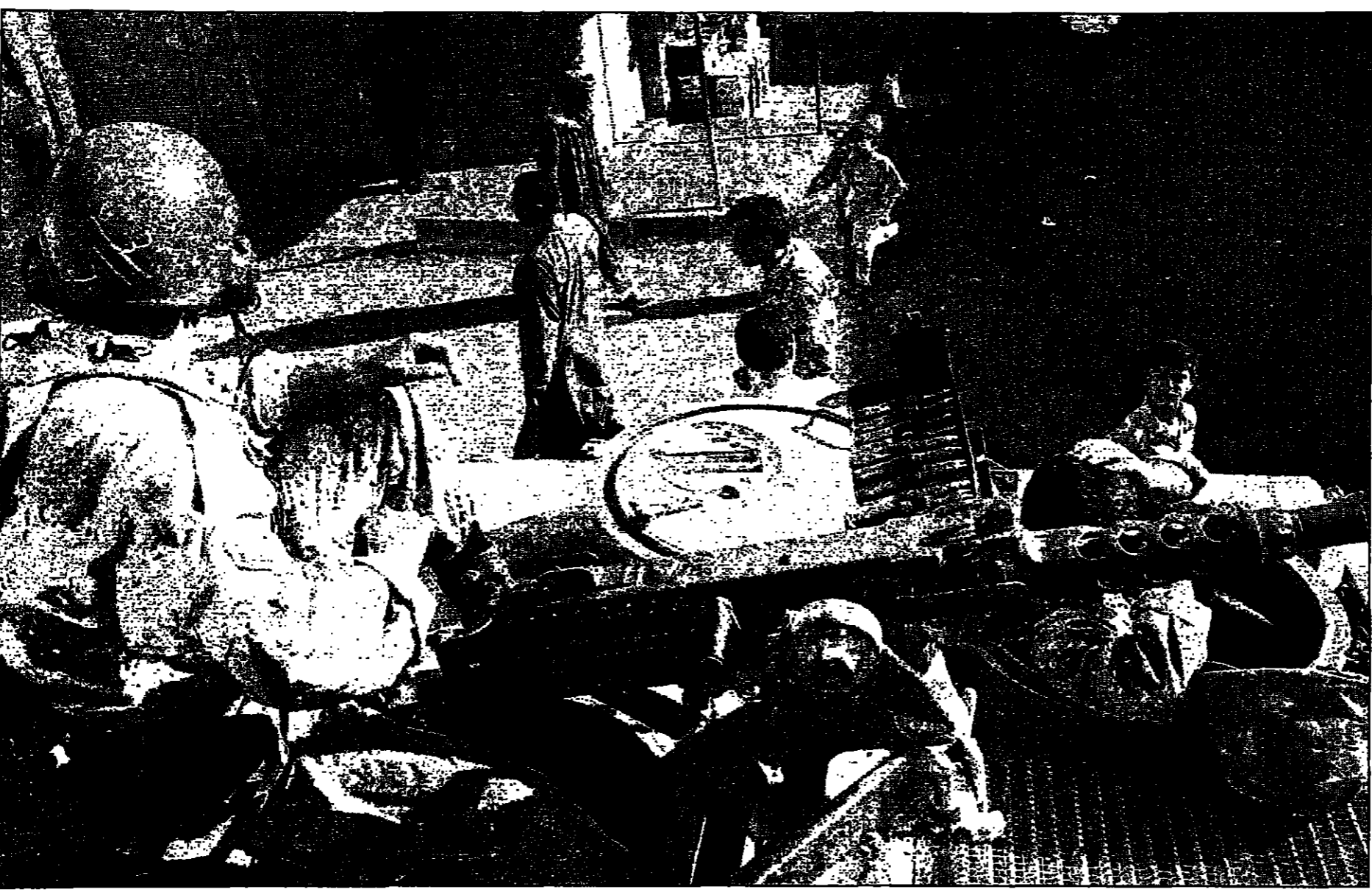
city recorded 89 gang-related killings. Though the underlying social problems were home-grown, the style was a conscious imitation of inner-city Los Angeles, where many émigré Belizeans live.

Supervised by the new Conscious Youth Development Council (CYDC), some former gunslings are now building pavements as part of the Belize City infrastructure project, while others learn fishing or other skills.

certy of Stagger's conversion to peaceful coexistence. Asked if he finds it hard, the Rastafarian replies: "No man, Jah take care of all that. I never pick up no gun to kill no one. I make Jah my gun, my weapon."

countries, such as El Salvador, and the city of Los Angeles have sent observers to study its methods. "I think we have caught it in time to stop it expanding," says Nuri Muhammad, who once lived in South Central LA and now heads the CYDC.

But the scheme retains the support of both main parties. "They know this is not something to play with," says Insp Broaster. "If anyone interferes with it, we'll all be the losers."



A Jordanian soldier watches from an armoured vehicle in the southern city of Karak yesterday, where troops were deployed to quell three days of rioting over bread price rises. The curfew was lifted for two hours, as the prime minister, Abdul Karim Kabariti, brushed aside calls for his resignation over the issue. Leader comment, page 8. PHOTOGRAPH: YOUSEF ALLAN

News in brief

Killing 'thwarted Colombia coup plot'

A MILITARY coup against Colombia's President Ernesto Samper was aborted last year days before it was due to take place, after a veteran political leader singled out to head a new government was assassinated, the Semana news magazine said yesterday.

80 die in Algeria massacres

MUSLIM guerrillas disguised as policemen have massacred 63 people including children, women and old men in Algeria, the London-based Arabic newspaper Al-Hayat said yesterday.

Japanese kidnap victim freed

A JAPANESE businessman kidnapped by armed gunmen after attending a company baseball game in Tijuana, Mexico, has been released, a company spokeswoman said yesterday.

Rwandans flee Burundi camp

THE United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) said about 8,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees returned home from Burundi yesterday as Burundi's Tutsi-dominated army stepped up the forced repatriation which started at the weekend.

EMU test for Sweden

SWEDEN'S finance minister, Erik Asbrink, said yesterday that some requirements for the country's membership of European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) would require changes to the Swedish constitution.

Libya's 'poison gas' deal

GERMAN authorities confirmed yesterday that three German businessmen are suspected of shipping computer technology to Libya that could be used for making poison gas. Two men were arrested on August 9 and are in investigative custody; a third is on the run.

Australians rally over cuts

PROTESTERS rallied outside Australia's parliament in Canberra yesterday on the eve of a budget expected to make cuts of A\$4 billion (£2 billion). Some, using sledgehammers and a battering ram, smashed through glass doors and scuffled with police in the public foyer for two hours.

Miss Universe told to diet

THE REIGNING Miss Universe, Alicia Machado of Venezuela, has been told to go on a crash diet or risk losing her crown, Venezuelan beauty contest officials said yesterday.

Clinton enters the fray on key tax issue

Martin Walker in Washington

PRESIDENT Clinton stepped back from a blanket vow against raising taxes yesterday, and began the uphill process of trying to discredit the Republican proposal for a huge \$550 billion (£366.6 billion) tax cut, the biggest weapon in their campaign.

cent tax cut — with Clinton on the No side and the Republicans on the Yes side — this election can be won," said Pat Buchanan, who has endorsed the Dole campaign.

his personal contribution to \$50,000. Unabashed by the criticism, the Republicans were pressing even further yesterday the tax-cutting theme which has proved a success on the campaign trail.

rous giveaway, and another which quotes Senator Alfonse D'Amato, a Dole campaign chairman, saying they will have to finance the tax cuts from the Medicare and social security budgets.

the rosy Republican assumptions about the extra growth and lower interest rates this expansionist policy will deliver, the cuts will have to be financed either by more debt or by the wholesale eradication of chunks of the federal budget.

One killed as gunmen fire at police station in Haiti

AP in Port-au-Prince

GUNMEN opened fire on the National Palace and police headquarters yesterday in an apparent effort to destabilise Haiti's new government.

The Guardian The Observer

On Course 1996

Four special supplements, packed with advice on the options open to you after exam results. Constantly updated listings of all the university places available through clearing, between August 15 and September 3 in the Guardian and the Observer.

Greens nominate Nader

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

ONE of the best-known names in American political activism was added to a crowded presidential field yesterday when Ralph Nader was nominated candidate of the US Green Party.

clearing them harmful to the environment. Delegates' credentials were printed on recycled paper and red, white and blue bunting were way to flags of green and white. Even the US flags on display featured 50 sunflowers instead of stars.

like consumer rights and improved democracy. Confronted recently by poll evidence that shows he could split the anti-Republican vote in California — so coining Mr Clinton the White House — Mr Nader said the president would deserve it.

Holiday deal offer to rescue £26.50... 000 111

A monarchy in trouble

If the Queen can discuss her role, why can't we?

FIVE WEEKS ago Michael Portillo was in no doubt about people who wished "to meddle with the monarchy". They did it at "the nation's peril". So what does Mr Portillo... and the Prime Minister who is also adamantly opposed to any constitutional change...

was only the grassroots who forced it on to the agenda at the Liberal Democrat conference two years ago. Now that Buckingham Palace has conceded the royals are conducting their own strategic review, we might at last be able to have a sensible public debate.

It was George VI who described the royal household as "not a family - we're a firm." Like any sensible firm in trouble, the royal family is reassessing its role. Indeed, contrary to the pusillanimous approach of both major parties...

Republicanism is not restricted to the Left. As the recent Fabian pamphlet noted, the logical end of a free market, libertarian Thatcherite agenda is the end of all hereditary institutions even though they may not say so. If you roll back the state, the Crown goes with it.

Few issues are more widely debated by the British public - in pubs, clubs and home - than the royal family. Yet the two major parties still shrink from engaging in a serious debate - and it

A monarchy in trouble (part two)

Jordan's riots may mean King Hussein is losing his touch

THE INGREDIENTS for a loaf of bread in Jordan, says King Hussein's government, are far too cheap. Nearly doubling the cost overnight is a necessary move towards more "rational" pricing...

cal agitation from opposition parties including the Iraqi Baath Party. The causes of popular complaint are no great mystery. Increased regional stability and the peace treaty with Israel have created conditions for a mini-boom.

The prospect of instability in Jordan, astride the main fault line in the Middle East, is so alarming that whenever it looks like happening it is energetically talked down. King Hussein has always weathered previous storms, including the 1989 riots over food price increases...

In a country where the uncounted majority are Palestinians, the riots have taken place mostly among the Transjordanian population in areas known for their core support of King Hussein. But he has failed to carry his people even if his light-footed diplomacy...

Desperately seeking the C2 vote

But Worcester Woman has many reasons to spurn the Tories

WORCESTER Woman is being wooed. Her suitor, Conservative Central Office, believes she can be persuaded to return to the Tory fold. Of all defectors from the Conservative camp, Worcester Woman is regarded as the easiest to recapture.

of others, many are behind with their mortgage payments. Some are even more unfortunate. They were among the 500,000 who had their homes repossessed in the last decade, leaving them with nothing but debt.

Attracted by Margaret Thatcher's right-to-buy policy, Worcester Woman bought her council home, traded up, and now like thousands of others is still trapped by negative equity.

Then there were the tax cuts, which John Major promised before the last election. His post-election budget should not be forgotten: the freeze on tax allowances, cuts to mortgage interest relief, VAT on domestic fuel and power, rise in national insurance contributions...



Letters to the Editor

Labour's own goals

WHEN Roy Hattersley criticised David Blunkett recently, Gordon Brown, I thought it unhelpful but at least his comments focused on policy. But in attacking Peter Mandelson on a personal level...

last year, in which he observed: "I was and remain a fan of Peter Mandelson's greatest admirers. He had worked for me - with great determination - during the 1982 leadership campaign..."

Hattersley expected when deputy leader: Cath Miles, 6 The Parade, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 3EQ.

When will some people learn that internal attacks do nothing to help Labour win the next election. Winning a general election is not something the Party has done in two decades...

ORDINARY party members want their MPs to concentrate on a campaign against the Tories. The leadership and the strategists these have been and never-were viliy have developed a coherent campaign that reinforces the electorate's sense of betrayal...

BRIAN Sedgemore perceptive. He illustrates the absurdity of the rag-bag of whingers about Peter Mandelson and Tony Blair's office. He complains that they are - shock, horror - trying to "give serious political issues a populist appeal".

AS ONE of the leaders of Old Labour who were responsible for its long years of failure in the political wilderness, Roy Hattersley should have the decency to keep silent and concentrate on writing novels, which, it has to be said, he is rather good at.

Study time spent in stacking supermarket shelves

TO PREPARE for an A Level examination a student has, on average, about five hours of tuition per week. As most students only study three subjects, they have about 15 hours of contact time per week. Their French or German equivalents, who study at least twice as many subjects, probably attend 25 to 30 lessons per week.

an enormously impressed by the determination of our applicants, who attain, and many exceed, our demanded high grades. Dr S N Noma, Undergraduate Admissions Tutor, Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences, UMIST, Manchester M60 1QD.

If our students were using the extra time for independent study, one could perhaps justify the situation. Unfortunately, many of them are working up to 20 hours per week, increasing the profits of supermarket chains.

ACTING on your tips, my daughter secured a place to study at the university of her original choice, albeit at a different college. It took a 15 minute telephone conversation with the admissions tutor to arrange it.

Students in full-time post 16 education need a wider curriculum. The crucial question is whether the Government is willing to fund such a change. E Ross, 45 Hamilton Road, Colchester, Essex.

[INSTEAD of congratulating the students on their achievements, certain elements in society proclaim that some of these students are not worthy of their pass grades. It is unclear what such utterances achieve, but they are undoubtedly aimed at students from the public sector.

Sex is a wheeze after asthma

MY EXTENDED family has five members suffering from asthma/hay fever - all born in June and suffering their worst symptoms in the summer months (Breath of Life - and hope, August 13). Around the end of August their afflictions become dramatically relieved and they tend to feel sexually frisky.



Is it too naive of me to suppose that there is a cycle involved here - conception occurs at the end of the affecting season and the resulting offspring are born smack in the middle of the next one. I await a learned reply and hope to be able to act accordingly in future.

most of my life I welcome articles that raise the profile of the illness. But merely stating that four or five people die of asthma every day is insufficient. Later we are told that "Up to two million (have) asthma", while some try to estimate that approximately 70 asthmatics would die each day if asthma left life expectancy unchanged.

about to die, presenting the data in a way that exaggerates the risk is hardly helpful. It would have been more useful to know how much asthma shortens someone's life. If the preventable asthma deaths mentioned were mostly among people who by reason of extreme age could not expect to live long, we should be less concerned than if they were among those who could expect many more years.

AS someone who has suffered from asthma for

Jon Fairbairn, 18 Kimberley Road, Cambridge CB4 1HH.

Unbaptised

JONATHAN Pratt (letters, August 19) wonders how he can be unbaptised. Perhaps the Church of England should look to Norway, where there are formal procedures for "un-joining" the state church? Even so, having completed my forms in 1980, I was told I had to "unjoin" my little son as well and a long correspondence with a stubborn priest ensued; I simply could not imagine why my son, who was born in the States, and had never been baptised, should have to formally withdraw from the church.

Committing kerb suicide

JOANNA Moorhead (Will you kill a child today?, August 17) misses the point that all road users - including pedestrians - share a responsibility for road safety. As a professional driver, I have witnessed countless incidents of careless, irresponsible and criminally dangerous driving. Aware of my own shortcomings as a driver, I try always to exercise the greatest care on the road. I am, however, frequently appalled at the cross stupidity of many pedestrians who step off the kerb without looking, often ignoring red pedestrian lights.

AS A non-driver, friends over the years have urged me to learn. What began as a personal statement has blurred into business, lack of confidence, a conviction that I would, anyhow, be a poor and possibly dangerous driver. A friend tells me that driving is not about intelligence. How graphically Ms Moorhead's article illustrated this. It would appear that we have reached a point at which road fatalities are regarded as the cost we must bear for our mobility, a holocaust we have chosen to turn a blind eye to.

Women poking fun at the male member

I WAS amused by parts of Rebecca Farnworth's account of her voyeurism on a Greek nudist beach (The bottom line in bathing, August 15). I was, however, surprised by your decision to print her detailed and derogatory remarks on the male genitalia on view. I very much doubt that you would have printed similarly derogatory descriptions of female breasts and genitals, especially if written by a male.

In addition, Farnworth's account of the "bald-headed" colonel's genitals ("As he

walked up and down, his tiny penis jiggled to attention") also gave the lie to the assertion, most often repeated by women, that it is only men who are obsessed with penis size. Richard Le Grande, Market Drayton, Shropshire.

The truth about Harold

THE Channel 4 programme Secret History which purported to reveal the reason for Harold Wilson's resignation as Prime Minister, broadcast on August 15, was an absolute distortion of the truth. Harold had, years before, indicated to many people, including me, that he intended to give up when he reached 60. Moreover, the explanation given was completely contradictory since it showed on the one hand that senior figures in both British and American security services were out to discredit the Prime Minister, and then actually accused him of being paranoid.

tempt to deal with the disloyal element inside MI5. Moreover the charge that Wilson's health played a part in his decision to go was false as he continued to perform many public functions up until his operation for cancer. It is impossible to escape the conclusion that the programme was devised to repeat old sneers against Harold and Maria Field, in an attempt to destroy the reputation of a Labour Prime Minister who won four general elections and carried through some very significant reforms for the benefit of the nation.

Lord Hunt's comments were particularly disreputable since he was Cabinet Secretary with ultimate civil service responsibility for the Secret Service, reporting directly to Wilson, and yet he seems to have made no attempt to deal with the disloyal element inside MI5.

That presumably is why none of Harold's closest parliamentary colleagues, who knew exactly what did go on, were asked, or agreed to be interviewed. Tony Benn, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

A Country Diary

THE LONGMYND: From Leebotwood, passed the castle bank at Woolstonant, the lane rises steeply up the northern end of the Longmynd, whose half English half Welsh name characterises the hills of the Shropshire border country.

(the lowlands where the combine harvesters plough like boats through golden lakes to get the grain in before the weather breaks? But also means a hiding place for grouse shooters and the red grouse, fires them calling in warm evenings just a couple of weeks ago are quiet. Perhaps they know all about the glorious twelfth.)

The fields end as the cattle grid at the top of the bank is crossed, and suddenly all that can be seen is moorland and sky. And what a sky. The stiff breeze picks up any sound, any thought and, like the bumble bees, fires them across the heather plateau into the deep blue yonder. This place is called Robin Hood's Butts. Whether it had anything to do with the famous outlaw of Sherwood Forest is unlikely, but Robin Hood is also a pseudonym for the Green Man. The word butts means a mound for archery practice and there are ancient burial mounds scattered here. Perhaps this is where the ritual sacrifice of the Green Man took place at harvest time.

Who waits inside these mounds, perched high above the north. These stubborn archery practice mounds are ancient burial mounds scattered here. Perhaps this is where the ritual sacrifice of the Green Man took place at harvest time.

مكتبة الجبل

Diary

Matthew Norman

THE Diary postbag bulges with praise for Harold Brooks-Baker's excellent Burke's Peerage World Book of... series, in which people are offered "limited edition" copies of reference guides to those with the same surname...

WITH THE Republicans so buoyant after their convention, the mind turns to their last successful presidential candidate, Al Gore...

NEWS arrives of a pu-erile whispering campaign. The victim is Anthony Fatty. Cheetham, the combative head of publishers Orion...

A WELSH farmer's attempt to stop Harrier pilots flying low over his land has backfired disastrously. When he painted the words "Piss off Biggles" in huge letters on the roof of his barn...

FOR anyone baffled by Shere Hite's decision to give up her American passport in favour of becoming a German national...

IN what close observers are describing as arguably the most exciting charity news since the founding of Boltondely Relief, Company magazine reports that a group of supermodels has come together to form...



Yes it hurt — but it just didn't work

Commentary

John Gray

CAN anything be done about growing inequality? The facts are not in doubt. In Britain, the gap between high and low incomes is wider than it has been since late Victorian times...

THE bottom line in this view is that a divided society is the price we must pay for a successful and meritocratic economy. How strange, then, that we should have experienced an unprecedented growth in inequality and...

levels ever farther apart? An influential new-right view suggests that we are. According to this view, which has strong and articulate support in the Cabinet, the new inequalities have arisen from wider opportunities and tougher competition...

There is an old-left view which tells us that the solution to today's inequalities is growth and more equality. That, roughly, is the view advanced by Roy Hattersley, in his recent exchanges in the Guardian with Gordon Brown...

It is not the rise of meritocracy that explains the growth of inequality, it is the denial of opportunity

has always denigrated the very idea of social justice, the old left is contemptuous of the sense of fairness that moves ordinary voters. It disregards evidence that voters distinguish sharply between the risks reaped by genuine risk-takers in business and the riches amassed by utility bosses who control the levers of corporate finance...

from educational opportunity. It is not the rise of the meritocracy that explains the growth of inequality...

There is an old-left view which tells us that the solution to today's inequalities is growth and more equality. That, roughly, is the view advanced by Roy Hattersley...

It is not the rise of meritocracy that explains the growth of inequality, it is the denial of opportunity

has always denigrated the very idea of social justice, the old left is contemptuous of the sense of fairness that moves ordinary voters...

Shaggy dog takes taxi to Cotswolds



Richard Boston

JIM is the local taxi-driver who takes me to the station when I have failed to persuade, cajole, bully or blackmail a friend, relative, neighbour or passer-by to give me a lift...

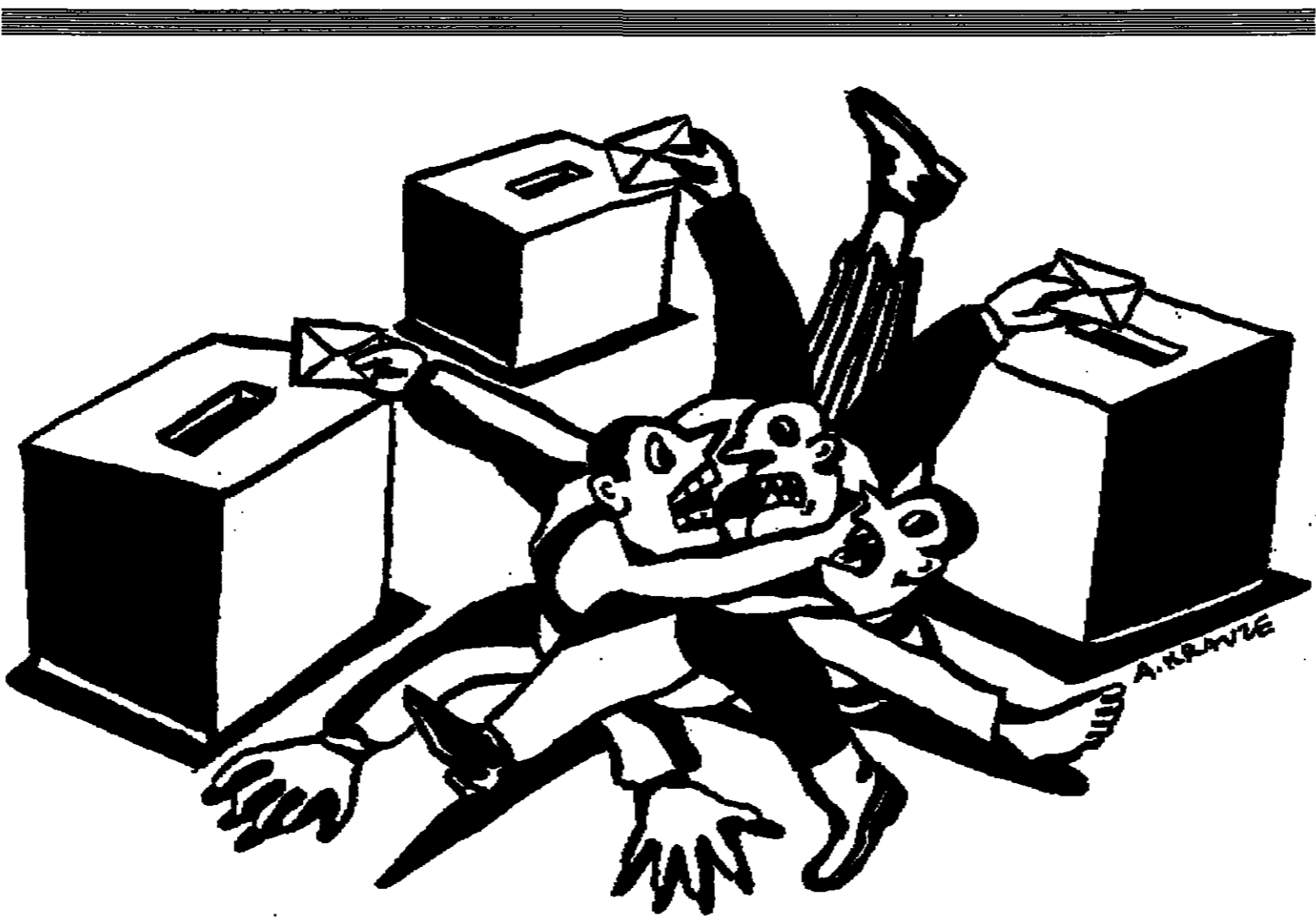
Nothing condemns us to carry on drifting hopelessly into wider inequalities and social division. We can reasonably hope for less inequality through more equal opportunities. We cannot hope for any kind of social justice if we cling to egalitarian ideas from the past...

So Jim had to drive all the way back to Goring-on-Thames to effect a happy reunion between errant dog and owner, whose only comment was that he went to Edinburgh once...

photographic film, short trousers, swimming cozzie. To the bookshop for Greek phrase-book and language tapes...

To the pet shop to buy flea collars for the cats. To the Museum where there was a fine exhibition of 20th century British art...

ANTOINE is always full of stories and this was his best, simply because it comes from life and not from that yet-to-be-discovered hell where they invent the "fish and chips one about?" jokes which are the badge of the humourless...



Three colours: black

Julian Berger argues that next month's Bosnian election will harden the ethnic divisions rather than bring together the three factions of the war

WITH less than a month to go before Bosnia votes, the international film crews are beginning to arrive at Sarajevo's newly reopened airport...

building exercise, has instead served to sharpen the three-party partition of the country. The various enclaves which muddled the picture, and might have made multi-ethnic forms of government a necessity, have been virtually eliminated...

from the same Yugoslav communist since. On one occasion earlier this month, the police in the Serb-held town of Teslic surrounded an opposition candidate in his workplace and besieged him and his supporters until he agreed to resign...

MANY Muslim liberals who would, by political instinct, vote for the opposition presidential candidate, Hris Slajdzic, have decided to back the SDA incumbent, Alija Izetbegovic...

week for the September elections to be postponed. It pointed out that none of the main conditions for reasonable free elections had been fulfilled and warned: "The vote may well accomplish with the ballot that ethnic cleansing which was not completed with the bullets..."

Advertisement for Eagle Star home insurance. Text: "If your home insurance company doesn't deliver these MOVE... Find out if you're missing out. Ask the following questions..."

Geoffrey Dearmer

Last echo of war

At Serbia when a sickening curse of sound...

THUS Geoffrey Dearmer, who has died aged 103...

For many years, he was the last surviving war poet of the 1914-18 conflict...

the title of A Pilgrim's Song by John Murray...

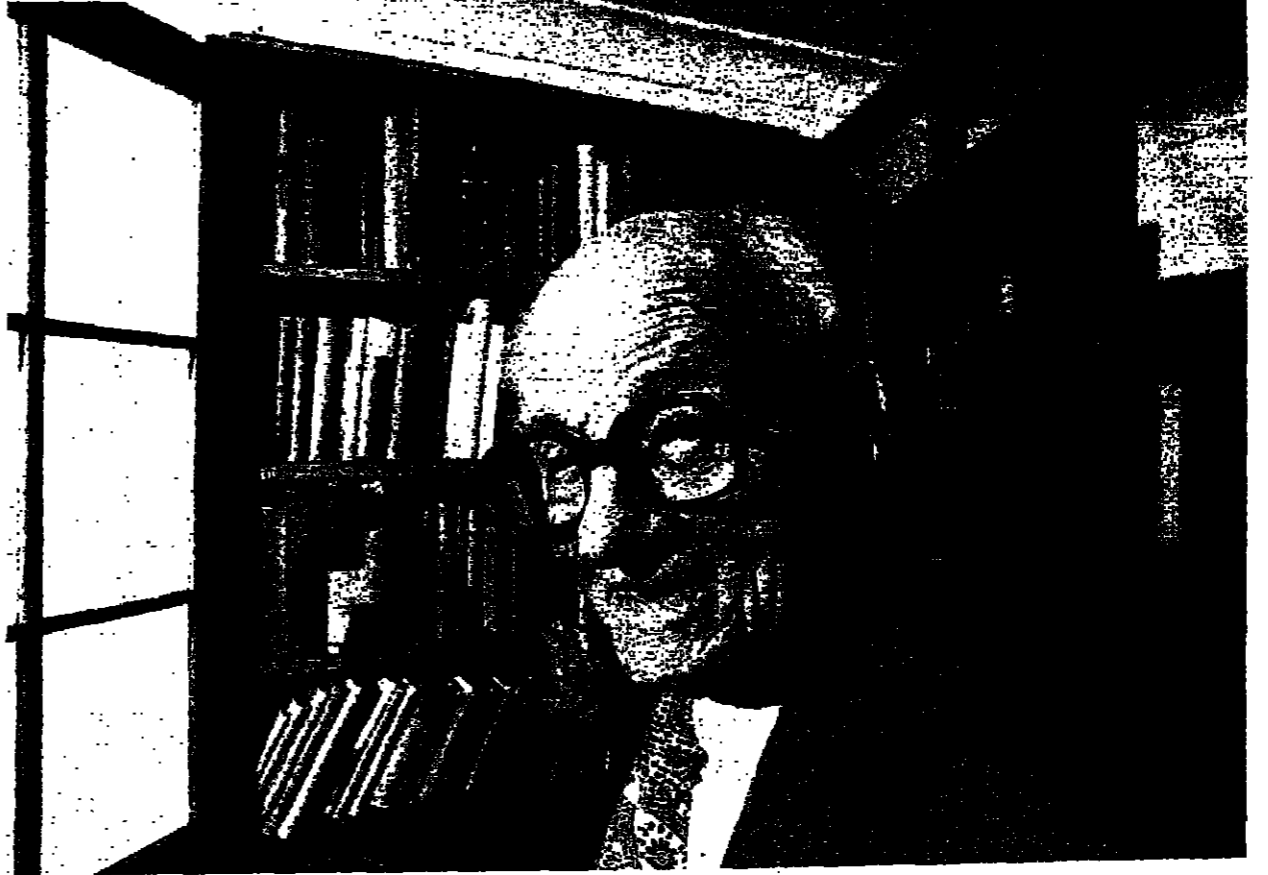
Born three days after Wilfred Owen...

A Prayer, II

Lord, when I stand in Thy celestial court And render thee a poet's last report...

teaching jobs in India and Britain, before settling down to a dual occupation...

He knew Bernard Shaw, Robert Graves, Rudyard Kipling, John Massfield...



Geoffrey Dearmer... the last surviving 1914-18 war poet...

day of Dearmer's century. It says something for his versatility that one poem for children...

of Owen, Sassoon and other long-established first world war poets...

bloodied mud of the battlefields swirling round his boots...

entirely Their clinging arms; across the placid bloom...

Rabbi Hugo Gryn

Wise guide in the Moral Maze



Hugo Gryn... rabbi, broadcaster and Auschwitz survivor...

RABBI Hugo Gryn, who has died aged 66, became a national figure...

spoke on the radio about Judaism, it was always from a strictly traditional viewpoint...

Russia, then under German domination, and is now in Ukraine...

It was called Anshwitz. Soon he, his father and young brother would make in rabbinical studies...

ing was the clue to Hugo. He was a man of high academic achievements and training...

He was a man of charm and wit summed up by the Yiddish word, mensch...

ing was the clue to Hugo. He was a man of high academic achievements and training...

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Birthdays

Gerry Birmingham, Labour MP, 56; Reginald Bevins, former Conservative minister...

Death Notices

BLACKBURN, Dorothy, Frances, died tragically and too young, 19th August 1996...

Letter

Orva Shevon writes: Geoff Hamilton's untimely death (obituary, August 5) will change Friday evenings...

James McLamore

An empire built on the Whopper

JAMES McLamore, who has died aged 70, was the creator of the Whopper...

who engine of expansion was the franchise system. It meant the McDonalds rented out the know-how...

only to McDonalds, operating throughout north America and abroad...

ore to pass over the charcoal grill for the required time. When cooked, they drop from their gates into small chutes...

and was later chairman of the University of Miami board of trustees for 10 years...

Howard Johnson's pre-war experience, proliferated, offering trouble-free environments and family-friendly food...

Births

ROOSEN HOLLY ELIS, at long last born 18th August to Neil and Deborah...

Jackdaw



Plastic mac life

ROGER has been a trainspotter all his life, and maps his whole history by the changing liveries...

The real trainspotters

be compared to an extremely complicated game of chess with loads of different variables...

Ferret freedom

AS OF today, Massachusetts is no longer immune to the discreet charm of the domestic ferret...

Mrs Smith

WHEN I became editor of the National Enquirer in 1976, I tried to install in all of my reporters and editors the idea...

Top dogs

TODAY dogs are icons, viable medallions that proclaim who we are or aspire to be...

George

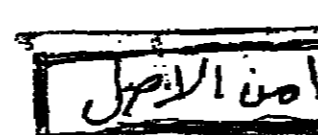
George... Mrs Smith stars whom the success of the mag relies, introduced by John Kennedy in George...

Emily Sheffield

be a lark. Life is licking faces, not easy to train as easily distracted...

Emily Sheffield

Jack Russell Terrier: Can be an arrogant member of the family, can be territorial...



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Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Health signal... Dr Johnson (right) offers Mr Kivumri a diagnosis on platform one
PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Doctor's surgery takes the strain at Victoria station

Ian King and Viviek Chaudhary

THE 200,000 commuters who suffer daily stress at London's Victoria Station were offered relief yesterday in the form of Britain's first walk-in doctor's surgery at a station.



Principally aimed at commuters and tourists, the Medicentre offers services including check-ups, vaccinations, asthma treatment and a well-woman clinic. Sinclair Montrose also expects much trade to come from the business market, including personal health screening and corporate membership.

service is not cheap, although Kate Bleasdale, chief executive of Sinclair Montrose, insisted the price was in line with the market rate for private health practices. She said: "If you're self-employed and cannot afford to take a morning off work to see your regular GP, £32 to walk in and see a doctor at once is good value."

Following the flotation in June of Sinclair Montrose formed from the merger of her business with that of chairman Michael Sinclair — she now owns a stake worth more than £2.6 million. Testing the service yesterday was 42-year-old station cleaner Edward Kivumri, who was given a check-up by Dr Nick Johnson. He took Mr Kivumri's blood pressure, checked his

reflexes and his shoulder before advising his patient that he needed an X-ray. He told Mr Kivumri he had damaged his shoulder muscles, was suffering from a condition known as a rotator cuff injury and would need to make a return visit. Dr Johnson said: "It's your shoulder that's the main worry, and the type of work you do is obviously aggravating it. You could also do with losing a little bit of weight."

hardly ever get any time to go and see my GP so I came here because it's where I work and my manager told me to come here. "My shoulder has been hurting for a year. I went to see my GP but he just gives me pain-killers. I found Dr Johnson very friendly — he was as good as my GP. Some people might think that £32 is a lot of money but if it gets you cured then it's money well spent. I will be coming back to see the doctor here — I'm hoping that he can cure me."

Notebook

Proof positive of property pick-up



Edited by Mark Milner

LET'S face it, estate agents could hardly be described as the most reliable commentators on the UK economy. Over the past seven years they have been guilty of spotting more false dawns than the England cricket selectors. As such, today's news from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors that the housing market is at last starting to cook could be shrugged off as self-seeking hyperbole. Except this time it isn't. The RICS survey is worthy of serious study for two reasons. First, the picture painted by estate agents looks far less like the patchy and short-lived recoveries seen earlier in the 1980s and more akin to the broad nationwide advances of the mid-1980s. Prices were up in every region over the past three months, with the pick-up pulsing out from London and the South-east.

events. The US Federal Reserve's open market committee, which meets today, and Thursday's meeting of the German Bundesbank's central council. In general terms the expectations are that, despite the strong growth in the US economy, the Federal Reserve will be content to leave interest rates on hold. That might not be good news for the Bundesbank or at least for those, like the French authorities, who are pinning their hopes on the Bundesbank shaving 10 to 15 basis points off the repo rate. Although most commentators are backing the Bundesbank to cut, not everyone agrees. The doubters reckon that German monetary policy is already sufficiently relaxed to keep the economic recovery on track and, anyway, it is not the German central bank's mission in life to stimulate economic growth. Indeed, they argue that the factor most likely to push the Bundesbank to move would be a further fall in the dollar. The chances of that happening would, however, be enhanced by a rise in US interest rates this week.

Confidence vote

PENSION funds have long been blamed for the poor performance of British industry because of their hands-off, short-term approach to investment. That has resulted in short time horizons in British companies and the kind of boardroom excess now being rolled back by the corporate governance revolution. That may be changing, but not all for the better. The seventh annual survey of investment management by PDM, the asset-management arm of UBS, out yesterday, paints a mixed picture. First, the bad news. It seems that pension funds are changing their investment managers more often, suggesting even greater share price pressure on those who make the investment decisions. PDM reports that one in four of the pension funds which responded to its survey fired one of its fund managers last year. That is a significant increase over the 18 per cent which parted with an adviser in the previous year. While some of the churn may be due to using a smaller number of managers, and a move to more specialist firms, the figure will still be alarming for those who see the rate determined by the next quarter's performance figures. But the good news is that Cadbury, Greenbury and the rest seem to be having some effect. It is only a change, but the trend which has seen pension funds delegating voting powers has been reversed. At the beginning of the 1990s, more than one in five pension funds took responsibility for voting its shares at company meetings. By 1994 that proportion had slipped to just 15 per cent. But last year the figure had returned almost to one in five, still far too low, but a step in the right direction.

Bundesbank bets

THESE are dog days in the financial markets. Business is somewhere between slow and becalmed. Even so, genuine trading opportunities are relatively thin on the ground. That can spell danger for policy-makers. Against such a background, attention focuses more tightly on anything that might generate a significant increase over the 18 per cent which parted with an adviser in the previous year. While some of the churn may be due to using a smaller number of managers, and a move to more specialist firms, the figure will still be alarming for those who see the rate determined by the next quarter's performance figures. But the good news is that Cadbury, Greenbury and the rest seem to be having some effect. It is only a change, but the trend which has seen pension funds delegating voting powers has been reversed. At the beginning of the 1990s, more than one in five pension funds took responsibility for voting its shares at company meetings. By 1994 that proportion had slipped to just 15 per cent. But last year the figure had returned almost to one in five, still far too low, but a step in the right direction.

Shoemaker feels pinch

As Chamberlain Phipps goes into administration, Pauline Springett reports on the fall-out

THE shoe industry was plunged deeper into gloom yesterday when the British operation of struggling shoe manufacturer Chamberlain Phipps, went into administrative receivership with debts of about £30 million. The move has put the jobs of Chamberlain's 430 UK employees at risk. A spokesman for Arthur Andersen, the accountancy firm called in to run the receivership, said that trading would continue as usual for the moment. "The plan is to stabilise the business and seek to sell it on as a going concern," he said. The receivership follows last month's announcement by shoe company C & J Clark that it was axing 1,400 staff. That move brought to more than 2,000 the number of ho-hum and footwear workers to have lost their jobs in the past few months in the UK. First, Lotus axed 260 staff in Stafford, followed by Peter Black, which made 400 redundant in Leicestershire. Chamberlain's UK factories are located in Leicester, Yeovil and Northampton. They produce materials and components for footwear — items such as plastic and leather linings. Their output is used to manufacture Chamberlain's own-brand shoes, which are produced abroad, as well as in the making of shoes of rival manufacturers.



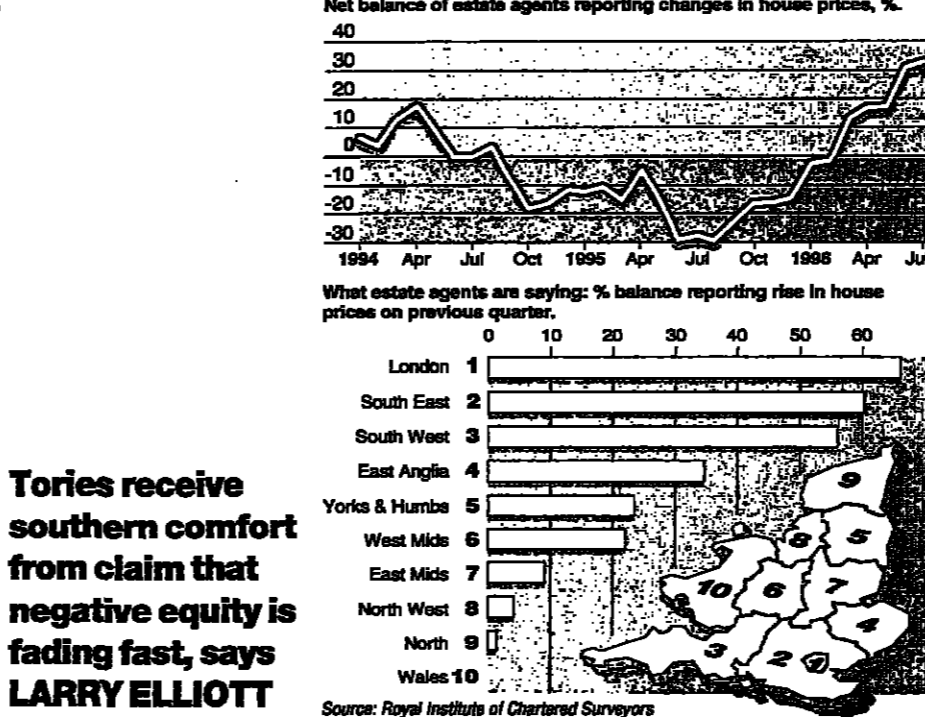
Sullivan... 25pc stake

After the second profits warning in May, when it predicted it would show a loss for the year to the end of March 1996 and that it would not pay a final dividend, Chamberlain's day-to-day running was taken over by company doctor Archie Poulson, who became acting chief executive. At that time, Chamberlain said it had been badly affected by strikes in France, which had exacerbated its cash-flow difficulties. Since its flotation, the company has been trying to restructure its operations. It was taken to the stock market by the American venture capitalist Dan Sullivan, who now has a 25 per cent stake in the company. Sullivan received a bonus of £288,000 for his work on the flotation. That was part of a remuneration package of £601,000 he received for 1995.

UK shoe manufacturers are blaming their difficulties on increased competition from overseas rivals who have much lower costs. Three-quarters of all footwear in the UK is imported and experts expect that proportion to rise. One analyst said yesterday: "The main problem is cheaper imports from the Far East." China's labour costs are one-tenth of those in the UK. This, together with the disappointing shoe sales in the UK this summer, has badly affected the UK producers. There is also chronic over capacity, with high streets bristling with shoe shops. Nevertheless, some UK shoe companies appear to be shaping up under the stress. Possibly the best example of this is the private Northants-based company, R Griggs, which makes the highly successful Dr Martens.

House price slide 'is over'

Back from the depths



What estate agents are saying: % balance reporting rise in house prices on previous quarter

London 1
South East 2
South West 3
East Anglia 4
Yorks & Humbs 5
West Mids 6
East Mids 7
North West 8
North 9
Wales 10

Source: Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors

of 32 percentage points was almost the complete reverse of July last year when there was a negative balance of 28 percentage points. Estate agents in London were the most upbeat, with a 66-point balance testifying that prices were rising in the latest three months, closely followed by the South-east (60 points) and the South-west (56 points). By contrast, prices in the North, the North-west and Wales were virtually static.

Sparks fly on competition

THE Government and the electricity industry were on collision course last night, when it emerged that many regional electricity companies want to delay the introduction of competition in household supply. As Offer, the industry regulator, admitted that it was considering the case for a phased start to competition, the Ipswich-based Eastern Group said it had submitted a report on behalf of most Recs arguing that serious problems could arise if competition were to begin with a "big bang" as planned.

Competition is due to start on April 1 1998, and Offer stressed that it remains determined to allowing every household to choose its supplier from the start day. But a spokeswoman said it was to consider the case for phasing in competition. An Eastern spokesman said "common sense" suggested problems could arise if 26 million electricity consumers were allowed to switch supplier on the same day. He said competition could be phased in by allowing small business users to switch suppliers first, with households following. Phasing in competition would allow systems to be tested.

The Government said its position remained that competition should start from the scheduled date. The Trade and Industry Department is understood to feel increasingly annoyed with the industry over its reluctance to prepare for competition with full vigour. Only last month Tim Eggar, then energy and industry minister, warned electricity companies that they would have to bear the cost of failure if they were not ready for competition. Offer is planning to test computer systems needed to run a liberalised market, but will not carry out trials by region due to contract complexities.

Brazil first with male Pill

THE battle to make a safe and effective "male Pill" was stepped up yesterday when a Brazilian pharmaceutical company said it would begin the world's first production of an approved contraceptive next year. Luis Francisco Pianowski, industrial director of the firm Hebron de Caruaru, said the Hebron de Caruaru, was based on a substance extracted from cotton seed. During the two years of its development it has been tested on 500 men in Brazil,

Africa and Asia and has secured World Health Organization approval, he said. Hebron plans to spend \$1 million on marketing the product, which blocks the enzyme responsible for sperm's maturation and could unlock a multi-million market. After a month of the pill-day treatment production of sperm is interrupted. Over 95 per cent of men resumed normal sperm production within two to six weeks of discontinuing the treatment, Mr Pianowski added. The substance extracted from the cotton seed is known as gossypol, and has been widely studied in China. First reports of its possible

use as a male contraceptive appeared in 1978, but Chinese health officials discovered in the 1980s that cooking with crude cotton-seed oil could lead to male infertility. In Chinese studies, some 4,000 men received gossypol for up to four years; nearly all became infertile. Other researchers around the world, with the WHO's backing, have been looking at gossypol but there has been some concern over possible side effects — particularly kidney damage. In the UK male contraceptive injections have proved successful and researchers are looking at ways of turning this method into a pill.

EMI opens on a high note

INVESTORS' love affair with prospects for the EMI music group ensured that its shares rushed up 50p to 1,460p at the end of its first day's trading as a separately quoted company. The excitement pushed shares in the group — whose recording artists include Tina Turner and The Beatles, and owns the EMI record shops — to a high of 1,485p shortly after their debut. But Thorn, the less glamorous product of Thorn EMI's demerger, planning a significant expansion of its Crazy George's chain, looked more forlorn as investors sold stock in the market, leaving the shares to close on par at 981p.

Thorn, which largely comprises the rental businesses such as Rent-A-Center in the US and Radio Rentals in Britain, did see its shares reach 409p at one stage. But about 12.6 million changed hands, compared with only a quarter that number in EMI, highlighting the comparative attractions of the two groups to shareholders. Much of the interest in EMI stems from the fact that it will be the only independent music corporation in the world and could attract the predatory attentions of rivals such as Seagram's MCA. But the music business has also been growing at between 7 and 8 per cent a year, assuring reasonable profit expansion.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1,905.00	France 7.64	Italy 2,304	Singapore 2.19
Austria 15.75	Germany 2.24	Malta 0.5360	South Africa 6.84
Belgium 46.09	Greece 360.00	Netherlands 2,515.00	Spain 189.00
Canada 2.078	Hong Kong 11.67	New Zealand 2,182.5	Sweden 10.10
Cyprus 0.6620	India 55.11	Norway 5.72	Switzerland 1,829
Denmark 8.70	Ireland 0.9350	Portugal 230.50	Turkey 127,880
Finland 6.86	Ireland 4.88	Saudi Arabia 5,775	USA 1,5125

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

12 FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

Steelworks heritage meets silicon future

PATCHWORK PROGRESS/The Scottish economy is strong but still vulnerable, writes John Arlidge

ONE by one the symbols of the past have fallen. Clydeside cranes are now heritage sites, engine-sheds are improvised theatres and last month Ravenscraig's rust-red ore chutes and grey cooling towers were blown up.

With no steelworks, the country which once launched the ships which won an empire is now officially post-industrial.

When Ravenscraig ran down, the last mines closed and bitter industrial disputes forced companies like Times and Ford to abandon new investment, many economists predicted a grim future up north.

To many, Scotland is still a land where the dole queues stretch ever-longer with drug-fuelled, no-hopers — the "Trainspotting" generation.

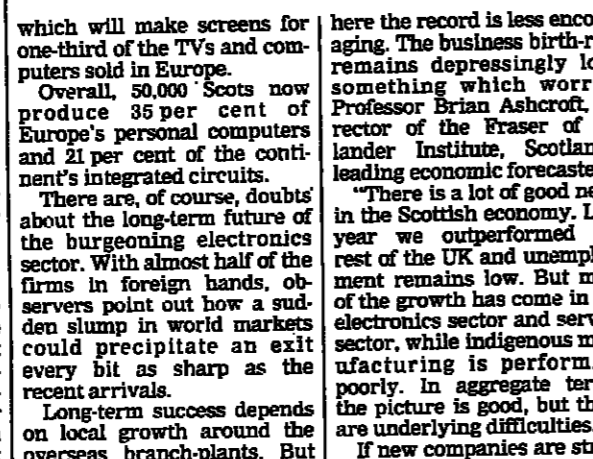
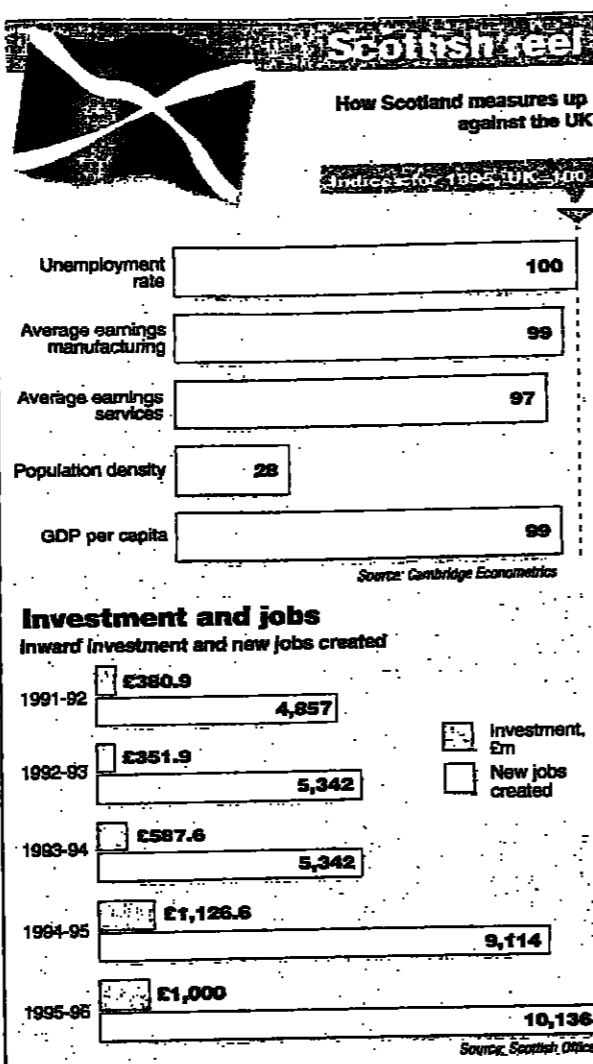
True, many parts of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Lanarkshire and Fife still suffer the effects of economic decline. But recently, in a typically understated way, the said country has begun to fight back, generating a unique Caledonian recovery.

Forward-looking partnerships between the public and private sector have transformed Scotland's economic base. Computers, cash machines, mobile phones, call centres and financial services firms have become the dynamic new face of Scotland's economy. Names like NEC, Motorola, Compaq and Direct Line have replaced the "Craig".

Much of this new growth has come from the US and the Pacific Rim. Attracted by generous grants, the Far East and Silicon Valley have created Silicon Glen, the hi-tech corridor that runs from Ayr to Aberdeen.

Last year, Locate in Scotland, the Government's inward investment agency, attracted a record £1 billion of new projects, creating over 12,500 jobs.

Drive across Scotland from Edinburgh to Glasgow these days and you cannot miss the new wealth: on your right, at Livingston, the new £530 million NEC semiconductor factory and on your left, near Motherwell, the \$500 million Chunghwa/Lite-On complex



gling. Professor Ashcroft can draw comfort from the success of established firms. In recent years, Scottish business has begun to flex its muscles to protect its interests at home and expand south of the border.

Stagcoach, the Perth-based bus company, has grown rapidly to control 15 per cent of the UK market, while Scottish Power has taken over Manweb, the Chester-based electricity distribution company, and Southern Water.

Forth Ports has swallowed up Tilbury Docks and Scottish and Newcastle has taken over Courage, to become Scotland's biggest company.

And, as it prepares for a £10 billion expansion in Ayr, the UK's nuclear industry from its new headquarters in Edinburgh, Scotland's "blue chip" companies are in rude health.

With so much activity, it is hardly surprising that the latest forecast from Business Strategies, the London-based consultancy, shows that Scotland's economy is set to motor strongly next year, with GDP growth moving up from an estimated 2.1 per cent in 1996 to 3.3 per cent in 1997.

Could Scotland's recovery be blown off course? In the short term, the answer is no. But looming constitutional change has made the economy a political issue, raising concerns for the future.

Under the abrasive, combative Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, the Tories warn that companies will relocate south of the border if Labour uses its proposed Scottish parliament to impose a "tartan tax".

So far, however, the fears seem exaggerated but political instability could prove damaging.

More important is Scotland's generous financial settlement. Scotland has a structural fiscal deficit. Under a long-established spending formula, the country enjoys 10.66 per cent of UK revenue, even though it only has 8.8 per cent of the population.

Mr Forsyth, who strongly defends the formula, insists that it would not survive devolution. If Scotland has its own revenue-raising assembly, he insists, the English will ask the Scots to pay their own way. In recent years, the Scottish economy has been doing just that.

here the record is less encouraging. The business birth-rate remains depressingly low, something which worries Professor Brian Ashcroft, director of the Fraser of Allander Institute, Scotland's leading economic forecaster.

"There is a lot of good news in the Scottish economy. Last year we outperformed the rest of the UK and unemployment remains low. But most of the growth has come in the electronics sector and service sector, while indigenous manufacturing is performing poorly. In aggregate terms, the picture is good, but there are underlying difficulties."

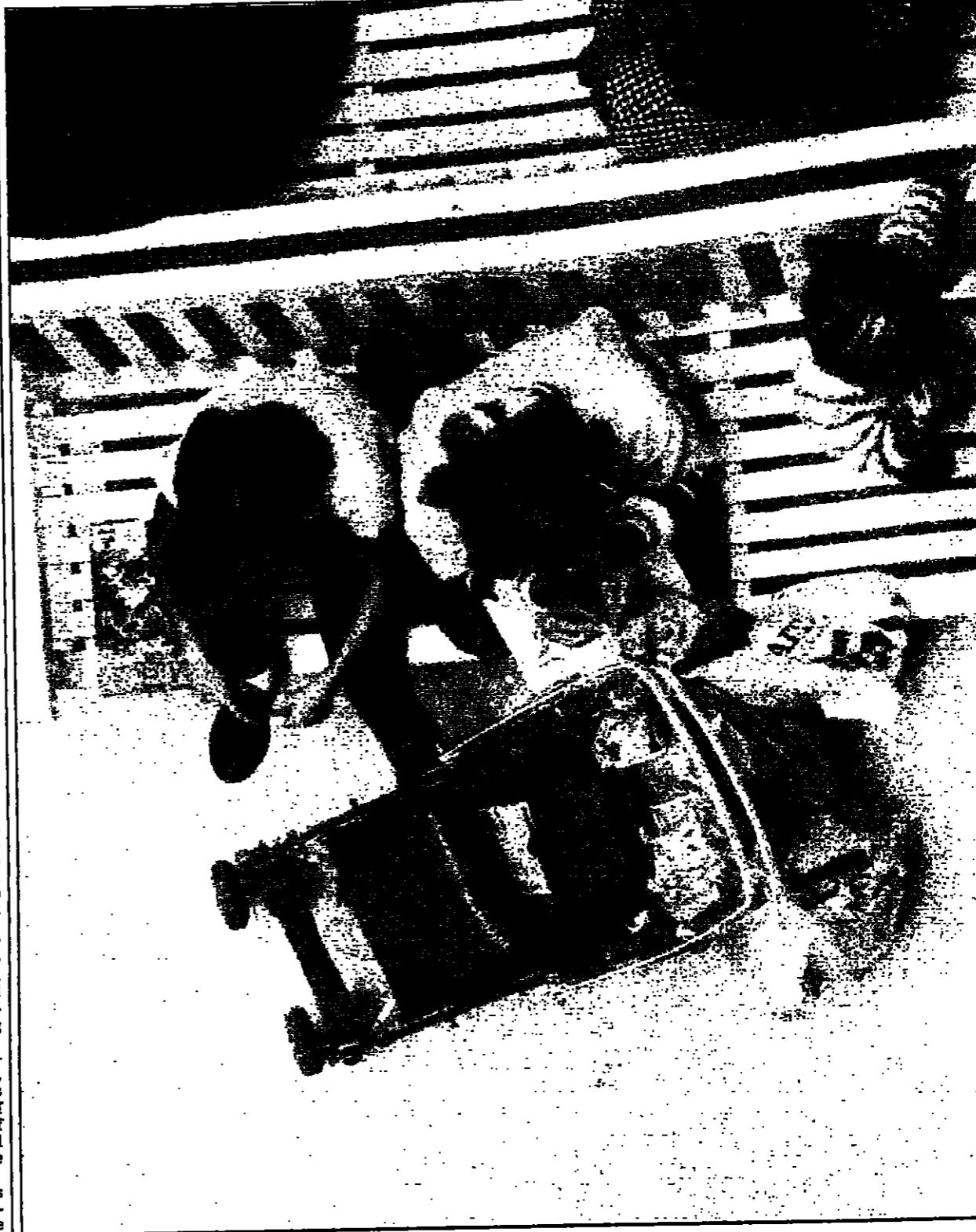
If new companies are struggling, Professor Ashcroft can draw comfort from the success of established firms. In recent years, Scottish business has begun to flex its muscles to protect its interests at home and expand south of the border.

which will make screens for one-third of the TVs and computers sold in Europe.

Overall, 50,000 Scots now produce 95 per cent of Europe's personal computers and 21 per cent of the continent's integrated circuits.

There are, of course, doubts about the long-term future of the burgeoning electronics sector. With almost half of the firms in foreign hands, observers point out how a sudden slump in world markets could precipitate an exit every bit as sharp as the recent arrivals.

Long-term success depends on local growth around the overseas branch-plants. But



Spending sweetener... Lakeside in Thurrock is offering shoppers a combined Visa and loyalty card PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

More shoppers get credit for loyalty

LAKESIDE Shopping Centre in Thurrock and American Airlines yesterday joined the growing number of businesses offering combined payment and loyalty schemes.

Lakeside has teamed up with Midland Bank to offer a Visa card which embraces the centre's existing loyalty scheme, while American has launched a Royal Bank of Scotland MasterCard which clocks up points in the airline's AAdvantage frequent flyer programme.

Such affinity or co-branded cards grew originally through liaisons with charities but the credit card companies, eager to build cardholder bases, have expanded the notion into the commercial sector, especially with retailers.

The supermarket chain Budgens launched a Visa card last year, while earlier in the summer Tesco added a payment card option to its loyalty scheme.

Lakeside is believed to be the first shopping centre in Europe or North America to expand the concept beyond individual retailers, although towns threatened by such shopping centres are also considering the idea.

A spokeswoman for Lakeside said the deal with Midland Bank would automate the existing loyalty scheme, which gives shoppers bonus points for every £1 they spend in the shopping centre, but requires them to get receipts validated at a customer service point. "This will save customer's legwork," she said.

Shoppers will continue to receive bonus points at the rate of 1 for every £10 spent, entitling them to various prizes. The card operates like a normal Visa card, but there is no annual fee.

While the Lakeside card clocks up bonus points only on spending at the shopping centre, holders of the American Airlines MasterCard gain frequent flyer points on all spending with the card.

One AAdvantage mile will be earned for every £2 spent with the card. The miles can be added to others earned on flights with American and other participating airlines, as well as other AAdvantage scheme members. Miles can also be redeemed against flights with other carriers.

The card has an annual fee of £35 and an introductory interest rate of 14.6 per cent for the first year.

Argos extends its catalogue of successes to Holland

CATALOGUE chain Argos is heading for Holland in an attempt to maintain its dramatic growth, which has continued in the first six months of the year with a rise in profits of almost a half.

Chief executive Mike Smith said yesterday that the company's low prices had been the main factor but growing consumer confidence had helped to push up sales by almost a fifth to £561 million. Pre-tax profit for the first half of the year rose from £22 million to £32 million.

Looking to the long term, when British growth will become more difficult, Argos has completed a study of continental Europe which identified Holland as the most promising opportunity.

In typically cautious Argos fashion, the first stores will not open until 1998 and the initial target is only five shops. But, if the trial is successful, Argos estimates that it can build a chain of 70 Dutch stores.

"Holland is the country which has been most successful for UK retailers," Mr Smith said. "It is closest culturally and in the range we can offer."

He said the markets in France and Spain were dominated by hypermarkets, while the attractions of Germany were offset by tight controls and a highly concentrated retail industry.

But Mr Smith stressed the long-term nature of the Dutch venture, predicting that it was unlikely to make a profit for four or five years.

About 40 per cent of the 5,000 lines in the Dutch catalogue will be unique to Holland. That will add costs in buying and in producing the catalogues, in addition to extra distribution expense.

The company also continues to expand in Britain. It expects to open 39 stores this year, a record number. That will take the chain beyond 400 shops, with an ultimate target of well over 500.

The new stores will include seven Call and Collect outlets, expanding the limited trial which started last year, and takes the catalogue format into smaller locations.

Unlike normal Argos stores, these small shops do not carry stock. Customers can order goods in the shop or by telephone, and deliveries are made from the nearest ordinary store.

Argos also continues to develop its home-delivery operation, where sales in the first half of the year grew by 41 per cent to £40 million. The incentive and promotion business, now called Argos Business Solutions, also grew strongly, with sales up from £31 million to £39 million.

Mr Smith pledged to maintain the group's low-price stance, saying he would not raise prices even if he felt the market made it possible. Items carried over from last year's catalogue were 0.1 per cent cheaper in the first half, while the reduction will be 1 per cent in the second half of the year.

Despite pricing pressure, the profit margin grew, although some of that increase was due to special factors.

Investors were delighted with the company's performance, especially a 32 per cent increase in the interim dividend. The share price rose by 14p to 757p.

Rebel Names scrap Lloyd's challenge

A GROUP of rebel UK Names decided yesterday to abandon plans for a Court of Appeal challenge to the reconstruction plan of Lloyd's of London. The 1,275-strong Paying Names Action Group (FNAG) said it had been unable to guarantee an extra £100,000 to finance a continued legal battle.

Last week the High Court rejected FNAG's allegation that the Lloyd's rescue plan was unfair. FNAG's chairman, Tony Welford, said the action group would now consider its options.

Lloyd's 34,000 Names have until 28 August to reject or accept its £2.2 billion rescue deal. Lloyd's is also fighting an 11th-hour challenge in Virginia by 100 American Names who claim the deal violates US securities laws. The case, which started yesterday, is expected to last several days. — *Pauline Springer*

Telecom patents soar

APPLICATIONS for telecommunication patents last year overtook those for mechanical engineering for the first time, reflecting explosive growth in the communications industry. The Patents Office reported yesterday that the number of telecom patent applications published rose 7 per cent to 619 during 1995, making telecoms "the most dynamic area of patent activity".

The South Korean industrial group Samsung, which is investing \$450 million in an electronics plant in the North-east, was granted 221 UK patents last year, far more than any other company. Foreign companies dominated the new patent rankings, with the best British companies, Marconi and British Telecom, in seventh and eighth positions. However, most of Britain's most successful world-beating companies are in the pharmaceutical industry, which tends to seek European patents covering Britain. — *Nicholas Barnister*

M&S bills clients twice

A COMPUTER error at the financial services centre of Marks & Spencer, the high street retailer, resulted in more than 40,000 customers being billed twice for the same amount. About 41,000 customers with loan accounts were debited on consecutive days this month.

A spokeswoman said the company would ensure that anyone who incurred bank charges because of the error received compensation, but she declined to comment on how much the mistake would cost. She said M&S had repaid the money and had sent out letters of explanation. "It was a computer error and we do apologise to our customers," she said. — *PA*

Medeva wins US licence

MEDEVA said that United States authorities had granted it a licence for a new asthma inhaler that does not use chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). Medeva, Britain's fourth-largest drugmaker, said the Food and Drug Administration approved its "metered dose inhaler" for patients using salbutamol. — *Bloomberg*

Price Waterhouse

THE settlement of litigation by Price Waterhouse, administrators of Maxwell Communication Corporation, against the US accountants Coopers & Lybrand was for \$68 million, not \$88 million as reported on Saturday.

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Racing

Ron Cox previews the first day of the York meeting and expects last year's big winner to complete a unique double

Halling to eclipse International rivals

EVER since Roberto stopped Origen, the Godolphin colt in the first running of the Juddmonte International Stakes, known then as the Benson & Hedges Gold Cup, back in 1972, there has been a special fascination with this Group One event which dominates the first of three days' top class racing at York.

Today is no exception. Another piece of racing history will be created if Halling can repeat last year's win.

He would not be the first dual winner, Dahlia and Ezzoud have beaten him to that, but Halling is out to become the first horse to win both the Eclipse Stakes and International in successive seasons.

Despite a superb wins-to-runs ratio - he has won 11 of his last 13 races - Halling was in danger of being remembered as a horse who flopped on the big occasion, until his tenacious repeat success in the Eclipse last month.

Halling's two defeats, in the Bechers Cup and Dubai World Cup, are readily explained. They were on dirt, a surface he can handle when tackling inferior opposition but clearly one he is not best equipped to deal with.

On grass Halling has won on virtually everything from firm to very soft, and should the forecast thunderstorms cause a dramatic change in the York going he will not be inconvenienced.

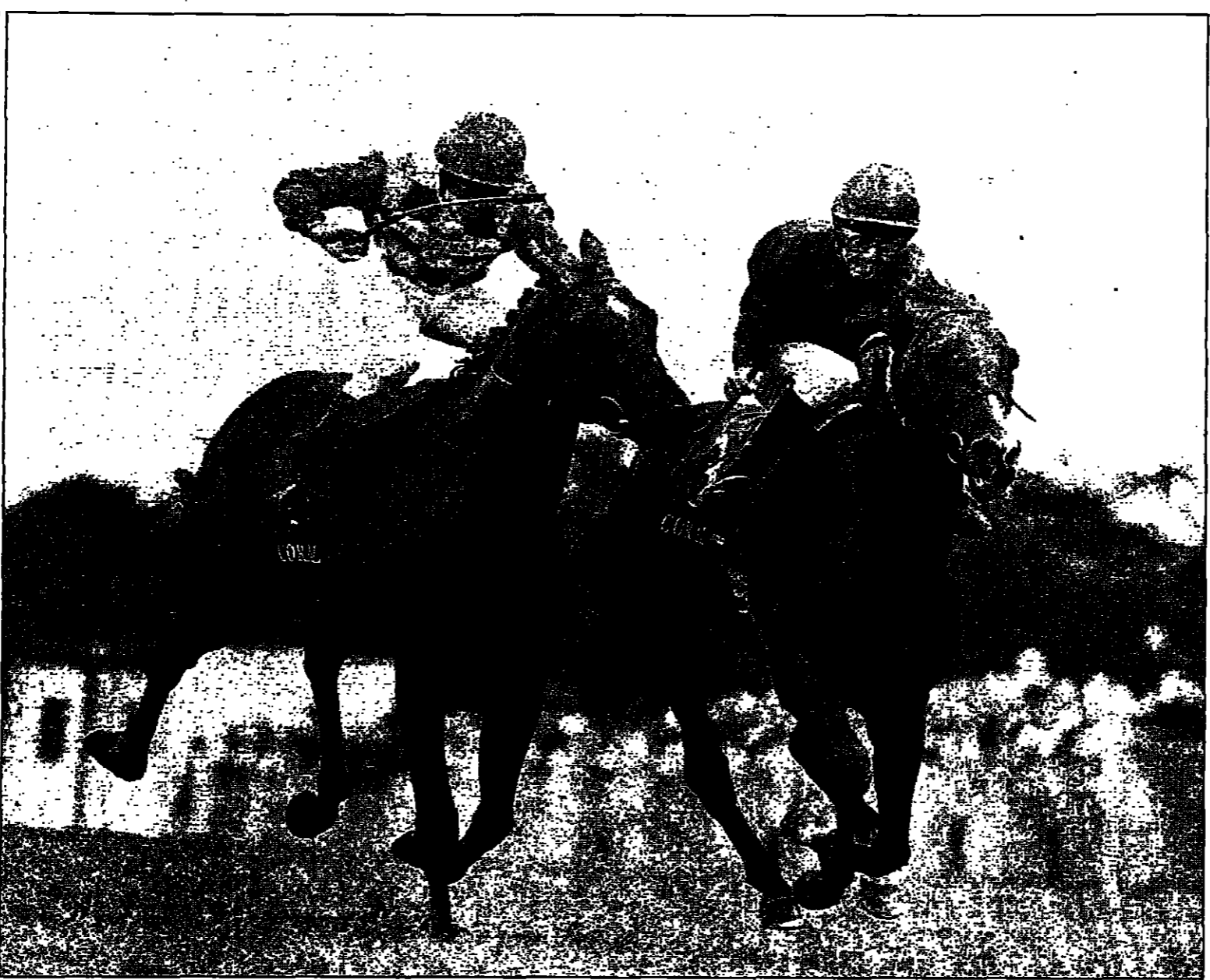
In this small field, with no obvious front-runner, Frankie Dettoni should be able to dictate the pace to suit him on Halling.

However, the Godolphin horse can be produced with a telling turn of foot if necessary, as he showed in last year's race when quickening clean away from Bahri to win by three and a half lengths - a performance which had winning jockey Walter Swinburn shaking his head in disbelief at the sheer power beneath him.

Dettoni's tactical awareness, allied to Halling's courage, are two good reasons why the five-year-old can confound the Sandown form with the younger Bijou d'Inde.

The International has also been a tough race for three-year-olds in recent years, with only two wins for the Classic generation since 1994.

Bijou d'Inde, on his first attempt at a mile and a quarter, pressed Halling all the way to the line at Sandown. Beaten a neck, and slightly hampered by the winner in the last few strides, he is rightly fancied by connections to take his revenge on what should be faster ground.



Return match... Halling (right) and Bijou d'Inde, first and second at Sandown last month, meet again at York today

Michael Hills may have the last laugh on First Island. Geoff Wragg's colt has the clear bragging of French rider Graze Tree Road on a line of form involving Glory Of Dancer and Tamayaz.

Ante-post odds of 6-1 about Spectrum would look good value if one could be sure last season's Champion Stakes winner was back to his best, but he has been absent since running disappointingly at Newbury in May.

Halling (3-10) comes here firing on all cylinders and it will take a good one to beat him. No doubt Dettoni would settle for this one prize, but he has the potential to take today's card by storm.

The Italian has a full book of rides and a four-timer is not out of the question on Berlin Blue, Halling, Mons and Grey Shot.

Mons (3-45) looks every inch the ideal St Leger horse. He would prefer more give in the ground, but this course will suit him a lot better than Goodwood where he finished best of all when a close fourth behind St Maves in the Gordon Stakes.

Luca Cuman's colt had been sidelined with sore shins after finishing third to Santillana at Sandown in April. He looks sure to come on for his latest run, but it is hard to know what to make of Dushyantor.

The unlucky Derby second is to be held up after having more use made of him in Ireland, but he showed no spark whatsoever at The Curragh and it remains to be seen whether he can bounce back from a hard race at Epsom and a series of hard gallops at Newmarket.

In the Melrose Handicap, Dettoni rides Berlin Blue (2-35) for trainer Bill Watts. This progressive stayer runs in the Sheikh Mohammed colours and it is surely significant that the jockey prefers him to the John Gosden-trained Liefing, from the same ownership.

The Lonsdale Stakes will probably see Dettoni out in front again with the game Grey Shot (4-45) answering his every call.

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Lady Herries, who trains Harbour Dues, received a big-race boost at Windsor yesterday with Maralinga.

Her four-year-old made all the running in the BAA Bonusprint Frequent Buyer Stakes under a confident ride by Declan O'Shea, the former Irish champion apprentice who has ridden five winners for the Sussex trainer.

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Ladbrokes report Ebor to win the RCA Championship in Indianapolis.

Carson booked to ride Ambassador in the Ebor

AMBASSADOR will take his chance in tomorrow's Tote Ebor Handicap at York. Doubts had been expressed about Barry Hills' colt running but yesterday a spokeswoman for the stable said: "The plan is to run Ambassador in the Ebor and Willie Carson rides."

A ray of hope also appeared for those who have supported Snow Princess in the build-up to the race. Lord Huntingdon, her trainer, who had been worried that underfoot conditions would be too firm for the filly, walked the course yesterday and was pleased with what he found.

"I thought they had done a pretty good job," he said. "Although the ground is

about right in the final six furlongs, it is still firm in the back straight.

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Paralympics

Three golds for Britain on the track

Richard Redden in Atlanta

WORLD records continued to tumble in Atlanta as Britain gained their first gold medals on the track. David Holding, a 38-year-old from Kettering, twice broke the 100 metres record in the semi-finals and final of the T53 class for wheelchair competitors, winning his gold medal in 14.49sec.

Stephen Payton, from Livingston, could be particularly proud of his achievement. The 19-year-old had been told by specialists that he would never run again, but he took the 400m gold medal in the T57 minimum cerebral palsy class and set a world record of 1:22.25.

In the pool, meanwhile, Jody Cundy, a below-the-knee amputee from Wisbech, set a world record of 1min 02.44sec in the S10-category 100m butterfly.

Chris Holmes, the partially-sighted Cambridge graduate who has competed at three Paralympic Games and was the most successful British competitor in Barcelona in 1992 with six gold medals and one silver, began his Atlanta campaign with a silver medal.

Other British medalists were Giles Long, who took gold in the S8 category of the 100m butterfly, and Tim Reddish with silver in the B2 100m medley. Kenneth Skinsie, a paraplegic from Eskine in Renfrewshire, finished second to the amazing Andrej Zafko from Slovakia in the men's S3 50m butterfly, the 7,000 crowd at Atlanta's Aquatic Centre erupted with applause as Zafko, with virtually no arms, powered home to win in another Paralympic record of 1min 11.23sec.

The blind swimmer Trischa Zorn, the host nation's darling of the pool, had every right to be hailed as a golden girl by the American press after winning her 40th Paralympic gold medal.

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York card with guide to the form

Table of racing results for York, including Channel 4, Channel 5, and Channel 6. Lists race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

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Tennis

Sampras serves up his fifth final victory of season

PETE SAMPRAS maintained his record of winning every final he has appeared in this year when he beat Goran Ivanisevic 7-6, 7-5 to win the RCA Championship in Indianapolis.

It was the world No. 1's fifth title since January, although his last tournament victory was in April at the Japan Open.

For Ivanisevic the defeat means that he is still waiting for his first tournament win in the United States, having lost also in his three previous finals, in 1990 at Long Island, 1991 at New Haven and earlier this year in Key Biscayne. However, the Croatian did have the consolation of reaching 1,000 aces in a year for the second time in his career by serving 15 winners.

Alex O'Brien justified the wild card he received from the organisers of the Pilot Pen International in New Haven by defeating Jan Siemerink in straight sets in the final. In a serve-dominated match, the world No. 189, who had 90 counted for the top seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Australia's Mark Philippoussis, took the first set on a tie-break and won the second 6-4.

O'Brien, a 26-year-old Texan who won the national collegiate title while at Stanford University, is the lowest-ranked player to have won a title this year.

The Olympic champion Lindsay Davenport continued her fine form since Atlanta by defeating Anke Huber of Germany 6-2, 6-3 to win the Acacia Classic at Manhattan Beach in California. She had beaten Steffi Graf in the semi-final.

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Soccer

Hoddle sets sail on tide of optimism

David Lacey says Thursday's England squad must build on legacy of Venables

GLENN HODDLE will announce his first England squad on Thursday. Ten days later, in Moldova, he will begin the task of ensuring that England are among the 32 nations who will contest the 1996 World Cup in France.

coach at Monaco, to be the Football Association's technical director, at least Wenger's advice will now be rather closer to hand than Japan. The European Championship reminded the nation that England's footballers are not so far behind the world's best in terms of technique as is sometimes imagined.

Initially much will rest on the players' ability to retain the spirit of their Euro 96 performances. Maybe this is why, with Tony Adams recovering from another knee operation, Hoddle felt he needed the passion of Pearce. Since winning the World Cup in 1966 England have won only two bronze medals in 30 years of international tournaments.

Rush split with Wales looks final

Martin Thorpe AN RUSH'S Wales career is almost certainly over after a falling-out with the manager Bobby Gould. The Leeds striker's disenchantment became public yesterday when he refused to join the squad for the World Cup qualifier with San Marino a week on Saturday.

Clearly Hoddle wants friendly games around him. He already has John Gorman, an old buddy at Tottenham and Swindon, as his No. 2. He also wanted Arsene Wenger, his



Ground breakers... Dallaglio of Wasps and QPR's Sinclair represent different spheres of influence

Wasps happy with new nest

Jeremy Alexander at Loftus Road hears about the benefits of an unlikely union

WASPS will play 12 games at Loftus Road this season. Like Queens Park Rangers, they reside now under the umbrella company Loftus Road plc, which owns 100 per cent of both.

or burglary than soccer, almost matched that for good news: Mark Hateley is going on a month's loan to Leeds United.

Even before a game there Dallaglio called it "one of the finest rugby union club stadia in England". Wright, perhaps provocatively, said: "No one else is playing rugby in London in a stadium like this."

on Saturday week at Enfield's new soccer stadium. Rangers had 14,700 against Oxford United on Saturday, more than they often get in the Premiership.



Wright... sees the benefits

Rugby Union

Australians aim for Test in England

Robert Armstrong and Greg Gowdson

AUSTRALIA will decide tomorrow whether to revive the traditions of a Grand Slam tour by including an international against England in their end-of-season European itinerary.

The Wallabies were to play Tests against only Italy, Ireland and Scotland in October and November, until the Australian Rugby Football Union agreed to add a Test against Wales at Cardiff Arms Park to their 13-match schedule.

Jack Rowell, the England manager, has advocated playing southern hemisphere nations annually as the best means of developing a running game.

Ups and downs to go to play-offs

HOME and away play-offs are to decide the fate of England's leading clubs from this season onwards. English Professional Rugby Union Clubs Ltd is introducing the system to decide the final promotion and relegation places in Courage League One and Two.

From the end of the 1997-98 season one club will be relegated automatically from League One and one promoted automatically from League Two.

Full house set to give Celtic a noisy boost

THE most obvious indicator of Celtic's resurgence will surely prove also to be a valuable asset in the business of making progress in Europe tonight, writes Patrick Glavin

Results

Rugby Union AUSTRALIA: Australia 2, Pittsburgh (14 mins); Philadelphia 7, San Francisco 6; Cincinnati 8, Colorado 4.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Cleveland 11, Detroit 3; New York 12, Seattle 12; Milwaukee 6, Chicago 7; Minnesota 2, Toronto 6; Oakland 10, Baltimore 7; Boston 3, California 4.

Chess

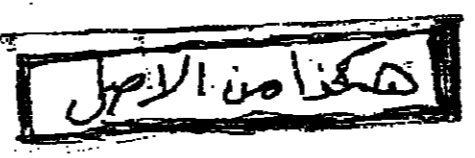
WORLD LEAGUE: (Munich) Round: Nigel Short (6), R Karpov (5), J Polgar (4), M Shusterman (3), S Polgar (2), P Anand (1); (Buenos Aires) Round 1: S Polgar (3), R Karpov (2), P Anand (1), M Shusterman (0), J Polgar (0).

Fixtures

UEFA CUP: Qualifying round, second leg: Aberdeen (4) v Zalgiris Vilnius (1); FC Barcelona (1) v Borussia Dortmund (3); Celtic (1) v FC Porto (2).

Pools Forecast

Table with columns for 'FA CUPWINNERS', 'NATIONAL LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION', 'SECOND DIVISION', 'THIRD DIVISION', and 'BELL'S SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP DIVISION'. Rows list various football clubs and their predicted league positions.



The Oval Test. When England's cricketers arrange their wagons in a circle or make the valiant charge for glory



Paul Weaver

VAL time, like Oval time, comes round in the gloomy gloaming of a cricket season, and if only those football chappies can keep their mud-died studs off our nice white Stuart Surridge long sleeves

for another few days it should be quite a match. Last Friday, when the football season kicked off rather strangely with a match between Manchester City and Ipswich, the commentator said: "The weather today is warm enough for cricket." Well, it is mid-August.

The Oval Test, traditionally, is the final battle, the last hurrah, The Charge of the Light Brigade, The Alamo, Italy's Last Stand, Waterloo — the best of Kennington on the Northern Line and you're there. This is the time when England's cricketers, who regroup this afternoon, arrange a circle out of their wag-

ons or make a valiant charge for glory. "And at this stage I would like to welcome Radio Four listeners to Test Match Special, and the news from Boris's Drift. I'm afraid, it is not very good because England, having lost the toss, are in a bit of a howl-you-go-against-the-Zulus and, as another vulture passes overhead..."

The Oval Test appeals to this nation's siege complex and sense of the heroic; it is the place of rear-guard actions and courage and counter-thrusts plotted by grizzled generals in tattered tents with cordite in the air; it is where the first Test of all was played in England, where Jessop

made his legendary 104 against the 1902 Australians, where Hutton scored his 364 in 1938 and where England, famously, won the Ashes in 1926 and again in 1983. This is where volunteers helped mop up the flood in 1968 so that Derek Underwood could mop up the Australians, and where more recently Devon Malcolm, who is now trying to get Nelson Mandela on to his benefit committee for next year, destroyed South Africa with nine for 57 two years ago. "You guys are history," he told them after being hit on the helmet while batting, but now he too seems to belong to cricket's dusty archives. So will Ray Illingworth

after this one, having led England to another brave new dusk. Then it will be back to the Spanish sun and the Yorkshire town of Farsley, outside which he has never appeared truly comfortable. The entire world should be a sort of suburb of Farsley. Ily seems to think, and perhaps he's right. I know this is rather unflattering, but I rather like the old boy. I saw him on TV the other week and he appeared to have aged faster than a US President — as fast, even, as Dorian Gray, who in the last, dying frame of the film played on 50 years. Ily must be feeling as put upon as a darbood these days. Illingworth has made mis-

takes, more than his supporters thought possible, but he still understands the game more deeply than any other cricketer person I've met. And if he has acted the Ayatollah on occasions, well, that was his brief. He was not a self-appointed dictator; that's what the TCCB wanted him to be. It seems that Ily, once again, has a spleen-to-spleen talk with his fellow selectors before the side was announced on Sunday and he insisted that poor old Jack Russell should hand over the gamut-lets to Alec Stewart. At least Ily has chosen a finger-spinner, a breed that could replace the panda as the symbol of an endangered species. Robert Croft's professionalism must bring a moist gleam to the chairman's eye. Even here, however, Ily has appeared a little flawed. The majority of county pros place Peter Such of Essex ahead of all other off-spinners in the land, but the chairman appears to have a blind spot so far as Such is concerned. "Bloody carthorse," I heard him mutter at Old Trafford in 1994, when Such last played for England and made an enormous effort to pull off a difficult catch. Such is not the all-round player that Croft is but Pat Pocock was surely right when he said: "Peter is a good mile ahead of everyone else at what he does." And with Illingworth having belatedly realised Malcolm's limitations, it would be sad if in his final Test, he should be duped by Chris Lewis. If he thinks Lewis really deserves a place ahead of Darren Gough then he must be wandering down Amnesia Lane. In the Headingly Test Lewis and Mullaney looked the unlikely partnership since Vance and Owen took the new ball. If Lewis plays at The Oval it will be a test of his next week the coach David Lloyd will be throwing away his Churchill tapes and playing a spot of Leonard Cohen.

Cricket

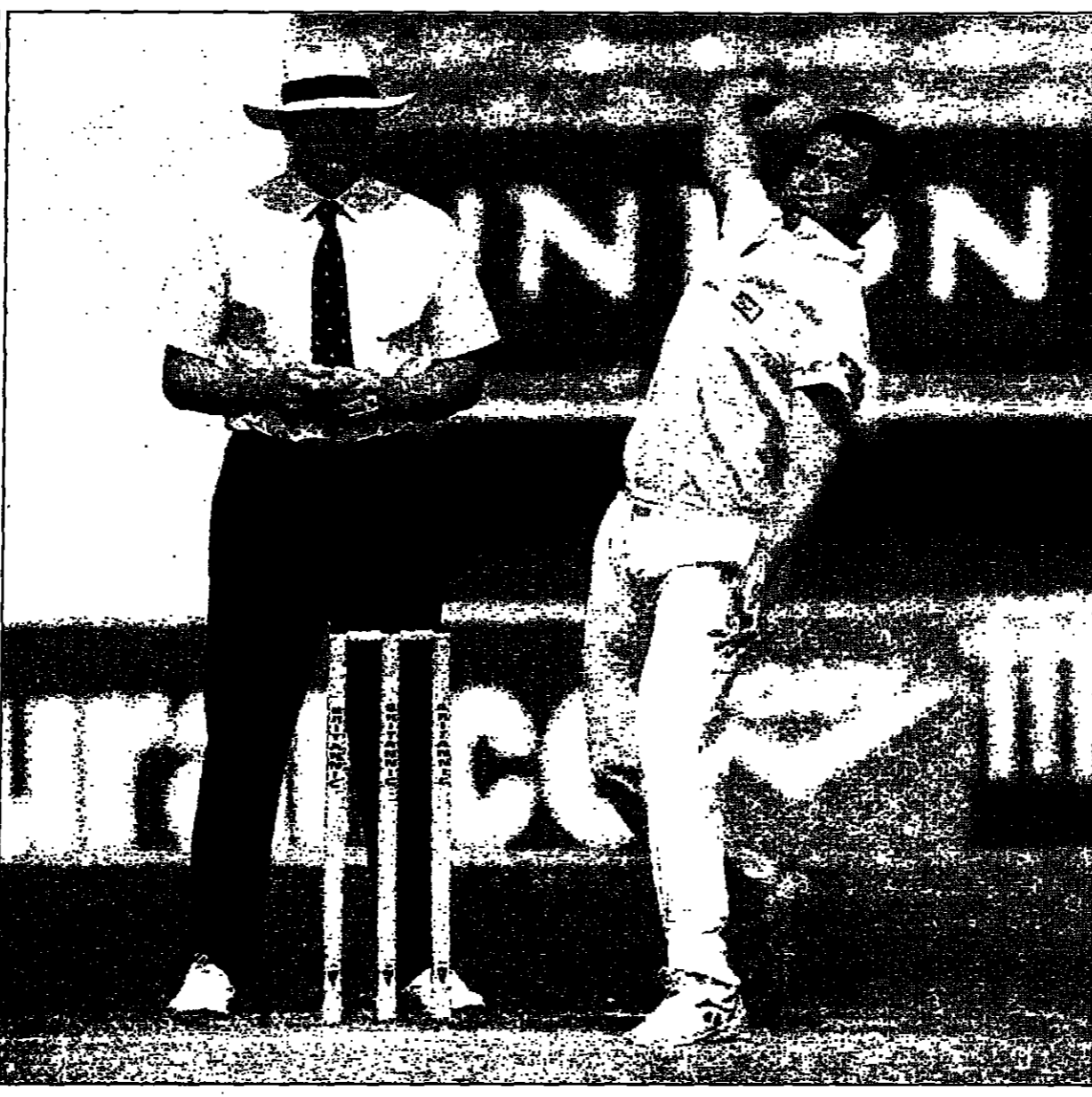
County Championship: Derbys v Notts

Freud turns up the heat

Paul Weaver at Derby

DEAN JONES, the Derbyshire captain, and Les Stillingman, the coach, fly abroad this week for short holidays before the final push which could give the county their first championship for 60 years. Their chances are good. They are top of the table for the first time this season after taking only 50 minutes to complete their victory, by 303 runs, over a demoralised Nottinghamshire here yesterday. Three of their final four fixtures are at home and, as they finish with a match against Durham at Derby on September 19, anyone planning a pennant party for September 20 may get it just about right. This is a non-vintage championship season and several sides could be involved as they go into the last round of matches, but the strength of Derbyshire's case cannot be ignored. They have won six of their last eight matches, and three in succession. Their batting, led by Jones, Barnett and Adams, is sound and their fast bowling, with Malcolm, Cork and DeFreitas backed up by Harris and Dean and the fast-improving wicketkeeper Karl Krikken, is formidable. The spin is not so good, but the same can be said of Surrey, the side they have displaced as championship leaders. DeFreitas finished with match figures of nine for 107 yesterday, his best performance in three seasons with Derbyshire, and Malcolm is having the best season of his life. He took five wickets in an innings for the sixth time this season and now has 68 first-class wickets at 28.44, including 38 in the last five games. Jones said yesterday: "We are just going to take each game as it comes. We are in the play-offs but we are not taking anything for granted. If we win our games the

championship will take care of itself. "We now have 10 days off and one or two of the lads are feeling a bit tired. But hopefully they will come back refreshed for the next game against Worcestershire at Chesterfield and for what could be the happiest 25 days of their lives. In Australia's top two teams play off for the title, and you could do it here. "Devon [Malcolm] has bowled very well. We have given him respect and looked after him. He has set his own fields. He has a lot of pride and it takes courage to come back after what went on in South Africa. He is mentally relaxed, in the groove and looking forward to his benefit season next year. "Duffy, my vice-captain, has also done well. We call him Freud because he has got inside the other players' heads and gets them up with motivational speeches. "Nottinghamshire, in contrast, look likely to be involved in hand-to-hand combat with Durham for the wooden spoon; this was their fifth defeat in a row. They resumed on 73 for two yesterday and lost their last five wickets in only 12.3 overs. Paul Pollard, struck on the helmet by Malcolm on Saturday, did not bat again. They lost two wickets in four balls with their total on 79. Chris Cairns hooked Malcolm to square leg, then the same bowler removed Chris Tilly's middle stump with the batsman offering no stroke. In the next over it was the turn of Kevin Evans not to play a shot; he was bowled by DeFreitas for a single and Nottinghamshire were 80 for seven. "Wayne Newton was caught by Adrian Rollins when Nottingham were 96, and without addition Jones took the catch at third slip to dismiss Mark Bowen and end the innings. The position of Alan Ormrod, Nottinghamshire's cricket manager, is attracting speculation.



Cruff craft... England's newest off-spinner on his way to two wickets at Edgbaston yesterday

Brown saves wobbly Warwickshire

DOUGIE BROWN and Ashley Giles yesterday kept alive Warwickshire's hopes of retaining the County Championship title when they shared an unbroken stand of 23 in six tests over to secure a two-wicket victory over Glamorgan at Edgbaston. The home side, needing only 136 for their sixth win of the season, subsided to 113 for eight before Brown

(26) and Giles (10) staged their rescue act. Brown hit the winning boundary off England's new spinner Robert Croft. At Old Trafford, Robin Smith (77) and Will Kendall, with a career-best 75, earned Hampshire a draw against Lancashire. The visitors never threatened to reach their unlikely victory target of 415 but reached safety at 304 for six

before Mike Watkinson called off Lancashire's victory attempt with three overs remaining. Smith and Kendall shared a fifth-wicket stand of 93 before Smith was bowled by Gary Keedy. Kendall, who had hit 53 in the first innings, was caught behind to give Richard Green his first championship wicket of the season. Middlesex had to fight for

a draw against Worcestershire after pushing for victory for much of the day at Lord's. Needing 251 to win after Worcestershire had taken their second innings to 233 for eight declared, Middlesex reached 249 for nine. The TCCB disciplinary committee hearing of the Ed Giddins drugs case at Lord's yesterday was adjourned until today.

Kent v Somerset

McCague puts Kent back in second place

David Foot at Canterbury

TWO devastating spells of grinding, grandiose fast bowling by Martin McCague, who took four for 21, ensured a 62-run victory for Kent with just over seven overs left yesterday. Even more heartening for the rap St Lawrence faithful was the fact that Kent were back in second position in the table. Just as Somerset appeared to be accelerating with impeccable timing, McCague was astutely, maybe desperately, brought back for the decisive phase. With his first delivery he had Parsons caught at mid-on. Turner disappeared leg-before to a yorker, Kerr and Rose had their stumps ripped out and the last five wickets had gone for 28. During this time Patel took his only wicket of the match, and a vastly important one it was as he dismissed Ecclestone after a trustful half-century. Somerset had earlier declared on their Saturday total, 227 behind, and Kent, well aware of the need to sustain their opponents' interest, totted up a quick 92 for two. Walker was again unbeaten, but Lathwell failed to play a shot and the stumps went over as the ball came back at him.

for the whole of the fixture. The last day was always going to be a difficult matter of mathematics. Kent's stand-in captain Ward left Somerset to score 320 in 81 overs. It was a fair challenge and there were times in late afternoon when the balance seemed to be swaying away from Kent. Bowler stayed authoritatively for 75 balls before edging to backward short leg in way of the wicketkeeper's gloves, and Hadden was caught at silly point as he pushed forward to an off-break. But Lathwell brought increasing hope for the West Country as, head down in that unwaveringly diffident manner of his, he built his innings with cover boundaries off the back foot and some nice, wristy flicks off his legs. He had luck, too; he might have been taken early on at third slip off Headley, he edged Long over the shoulder of the wicketkeeper and he might have gone to silly point off Hopper. The way he did go, after completing a notable 51 under three hours, was to misjudge an admirable delivery from the wicketkeeper and he might have gone to silly point off Hopper. The way he did go, after completing a notable 51 under three hours, was to misjudge an admirable delivery from the wicketkeeper and he might have gone to silly point off Hopper. The way he did go, after completing a notable 51 under three hours, was to misjudge an admirable delivery from the wicketkeeper and he might have gone to silly point off Hopper.

Pace and spin a splitting headache for Essex

WAQAR YOUNIS and Saqlain Mushtaq yesterday bowled the Pakistanis to a fifth Telford Challenge victory of the tour, a crushing 271-run win over Essex at Chelmsford. The off-spinner Saqlain took five for 34 and match figures of nine for 81 while Waqar's pace produced four for 26 and an overall nine for 68. The Pakistanis had declared at their overnight 372 for two, 389 ahead of a below-

strength Essex side also missing their captain Paul Prichard, who had a migraine. Darren Robinson shared a second-wicket stand of 55 with Jonathan Lewis and made his second half-century of the game, with eight boundaries, before knocking a simple return catch to Saqlain, the Man of the Match. The last eight wickets fell for 32 in 14 overs, however, as Essex were all out for 118.

Scoreboard

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score. Includes sections for Kent v Somerset, Warwickshire v Glamorgan, and other matches.

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes sections for Kent v Somerset, Warwickshire v Glamorgan, and other matches.

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SportsGuardian

MANAGERLESS ARSENAL COME UNSTUCK AT ANFIELD



Breaking out... Dennis Bergkamp leads an Arsenal counter-attack as he eludes Liverpool's Jason McAteer at Anfield last night

PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

Premiership: Liverpool 2, Arsenal 0

McManaman makes merry

Michael Walker

LIVERPOOL followed their classy exhibition of possession football at Middlesbrough on Saturday with a contrasting performance of persistent effort at Anfield last night. It appeared to be bringing no reward until the tireless Steve McManaman scored twice in six second-half minutes to secure an ultimately comfortable victory.

After both teams' useful performance on Saturday neither line-up was changed. That meant Ian Wright was

again a spectator for Arsenal but Patrick Berger, out with a calf strain, did not appear on the Liverpool bench. Even without their new Czech Liverpool were fluent from the first minute with three rousing attacks in the first five minutes. Seaman, warmly applauded by the Kop in recognition of his Euro 96 displays, easily saved the first two and the third, from Collymore, rocketed over his bar.

Liverpool had signalled their intention early and Seaman must have been relieved that Fowler, scorer of two hat-tricks against Arsenal on the Londoners' previous two visits here, was not behind any

of them. Stewart Houston was soon issuing vocal demands from the caretaker manager's dug-out. One of them may have been for Farouf to get closer to Hartson and Bergkamp, and when he managed it Arsenal were a slightly more convincing force.

Hartson almost worked an opening with a neat piece of footwork and in the 25th minute Bergkamp delighted the visiting fans with a skilful juggle and shot. By then Arsenal had reached the base camp of their Anfield expedition by silencing the crowd. And despite conceding 10 corners in the first half, Arsenal went into the break on level

terms and Seaman had not been significantly stretched. Whether the Gunners had laid plans to attain anything higher was open to question. Their main aim seemed to be to stifle Barnes and McManaman and they were aided in achieving this by the Liverpool players themselves.

Barnes was unrecognisable from the influential playmaker at Tossie. McManaman saw more of the ball than anyone else on the pitch, but found it hard to produce a telling final pass when faced with an 11-man defence. The overall effect was that Fowler was anonymous. The home support had sub-

sided into a slumber and even in the balmy conditions on Merseyside Seaman had not broken into a sweat. Arsenal must have felt the draw was theirs for the taking, but with just over 30 minutes to go Liverpool had some luck.

Barnes, just outside the area, found McManaman just inside it. McManaman swivelled and struck a left-foot shot that seemed to be heading towards Seaman when Gould stuck out a leg and the ball deflected past the prostrate goalkeeper. Arsenal then made their most serious attacking move of the evening: they brought on Wright, but it was too late.

McManaman had re-discovered his form. The spindly one set off on a 40-yard dribble that left Morrison and Keown on the floor. McManaman poked that effort wide but with his next he made it two-nil. Again Barnes was the provider, though this time indirectly. Released by McManaman's backheel, his shot was palmed away by Seaman but only for McManaman to strike home the rebound.

Liverpool: James; Babo, Wright, Matteo, Byrne, McAteer, Barnes, Thomas, McManaman, Collymore, Fowler. Arsenal: Seaman; Dixon, Bould, Linighan, Keown, Winterburn, Morrow, Farouf, Hartson, Bangs, Harrison. Referee: G. Willard (Worthing).

Robinson to winter with Tuigamala in rugby union

Paul Fitzpatrick

WIGAN's winger Jason Robinson looks likely to play League Two rugby union for Bedford or Blackheath this winter rather than rugby league for Great Britain in Papua New Guinea, Fiji and New Zealand.

The news came on the day that Robinson's Wigan team-mate Va'anga Tuigamala signed a four-month winter contract with Wasps, and less than a week after another Wigan player, Henry Paul, joined Bath on a similar basis.

The 22-year-old Robinson is one of the game's authentic stars and was an automatic selection for the Lions' tour which starts next month. He is good enough to win games on his own.

However, along with his team-mate Gary Connolly he has been refused permission to play by the Australian Rugby League, with which he takes up a contract next year and from which he has received a substantial "loyalty" payment. Connolly is signed up with the ARL from 1999.

The Rugby Football League may try to have the ARL's ban overturned in the courts. Failing that, Robinson, who underlined his ability less than two weeks ago when he scored five tries against Leeds — a joint record for Super League — seems certain to take up a winter contract in union.

Jack Robinson, the Wigan chairman, confirmed yesterday that his club had received approaches from Bedford, who are owned by the boxing promoter Frank Warren, and from Blackheath and he said that Wigan had no objection to the player signing a short-term contract.

"The agreement would be that they must take over his contract payments. The personal terms would then be between the club and the player," said the chairman.

Wigan likewise raised no objections to Paul and Tuigamala seeking winter employment elsewhere. "We are glad Inga has managed to fix himself up with a club," said Robinson. "Hopefully it will keep him in good trim for the start of the new rugby league season. We want him back for pre-season training in early January."

Rugby league was always prepared to accept that when union went professional there would be a free market place and the best bid should win. But the loss of Great Britain of two exceptional players in Robinson and Connolly, who

has been linked with Harlequins, is nothing to do with the startling cross-code developments of the past year. It is one crazy consequence of the long-running struggle for control of rugby league in Australia between Rupert Murdoch's News International, backer of Super League, and the ARL.

If Jason Robinson opts to join Bedford he will team up again with his former Wigan colleague Martin Offiah, who left Wigan recently to sign a dual contract with the London Broncos and Bedford.

The number of players switching to union full-time went up by three yesterday when Waterloo signed the out-of-contract Widnes players Tony Thornley, Jason Green and David Ruane. Nine Widnes players have now signed union contracts: Jim Mills, the chairman, blames the switch to summer play and an off season that is too long.

Queens Park Wasps, page 14



Winter workers... Robinson (above) can choose between Bedford and Blackheath. Tuigamala (below) has already opted for Wasps



Athletics international: Great Britain v Select Team

Christie drags out the soap opera

Duncan Mackay in Gateshead finds the British sprinter is not about to retire after all

TEN THOUSAND people were brought here apparently under false pretences last night to see what they believed would be Linford Christie's last appearance in a British vest.

But he gave everyone a rude shock when he declared that he might be back racing again next year. A retirement that was absolute only last week, when he said "all good things must come to an end", now no longer seems to apply and there appears every prospect of the 36-year-old former Olympic 100 metres champion carrying on to next August's world championships in Athens.

When he was asked by a British Athletic Federation official whether this match

against an International Select would be an emotional night, he answered: "Why? Who knows, you might even see me in a British vest next year. I might even go to the Europa Cup if they pick me."

Malcolm Arnold, the federation's chief coach, had apparently known about Christie's decision for two weeks, after the two had had a conversation during the Olympics and Christie had told him he was available for the Europa Cup in Munich.

Christie's announcement came minutes after he was inches away from a record 52nd individual victory on his 64th appearance when he finished second in the 200m to his British team-mate John Regis. Christie was leading

coming out of the bend but twisted his left knee and had to concede first place to Regis by 0.02 in 20.62sec.

Christie then limped out to the centre of the track to make an award to the retiring team administrator John Brown, only to drop the memento, before withdrawing from a 100m showdown with Donovan Bailey, his successor as Olympic champion.

It was another bizarre twist in a soap opera that has dominated British athletics since June 1995 when Christie broke down and wept on television, declaring that the sport was no longer fun, he could not take the media pressure any more and would miss the Olympics.

As with his decision to go to Atlanta after all, Christie's determination to carry on will hardly have come as a shock to his team-mates. One has been busily collecting bets all summer that he would continue. He knew Christie has never kept his word about retiring. In 1991, after finishing fourth in the world championships, Christie said: "It's better for me to go out at the top. I am not getting any younger and I'm disillusioned." In 1992, after his Olympic gold medal, he promised: "I'm retiring after 1994. It doesn't matter how well I'm running."

Bailey was pushed harder than he would have liked by Ian Mackie before winning comfortably in 10.19sec. The world record holder got the crowd on his side by warming up in a Newcastle United shirt.

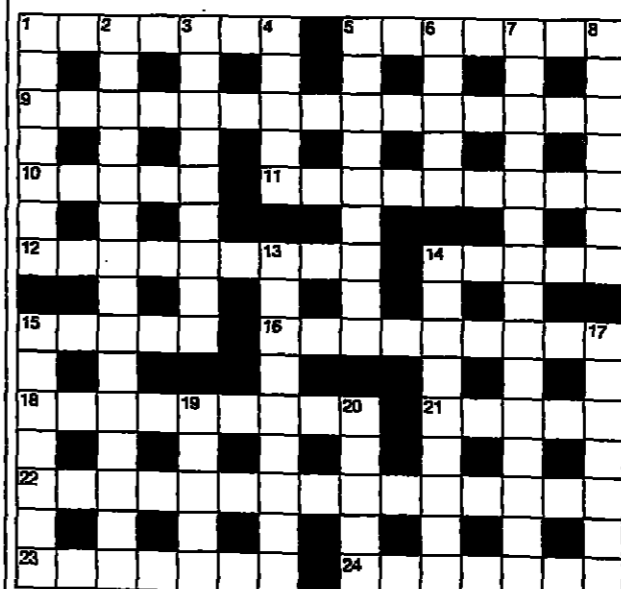
After the sight of a half-full Crystal Palace last week, it was heartening to see an almost capacity crowd, attracted here not only by Christie's alleged farewell but the promise of head-to-head competition involving a number of

Olympic champions. After the thrilling race between Christie and Regis, Roger Black brought the crowd to its feet again when he won his 400m duel with the United States relay gold medalists Derek Mills and Jason Rouser in 44.6sec. Black has returned admirably to his task of establishing himself as the best quarter-miler in the world after Michael Johnson.

There were other British victories on a night when the wind off the River Tyne was for once welcome. Paula Radcliffe, the new United Kingdom record holder for 5,000m, continued her impressive post-Olympic campaign when she won the 3,000m by 20 metres in 8m21.56sec. Nell Caddy, who trains on the dunes in Cornwall, showed a tactical maturity beyond his 21 years when he won the corresponding men's race in 8.03.58.

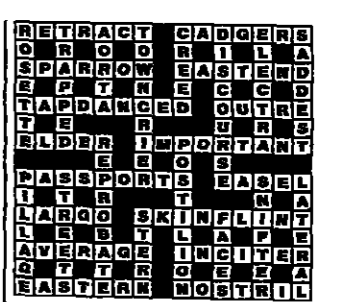
Guardian Crossword No 20,736

Set by Janus



- Across**
- 1 Spinning stick in underworld river (7)
 - 5 Furlong a bit (7)
 - 9 Mathematical genius who might do a spell at the Treasury (9,6)
 - 10 Talks to the birds (5)
 - 11 A cyclist needs it to deal with the law (9)
 - 12 Combination of businessmen and loveless society? (9)
 - 14 Change gear and put on first evening suit (5)
 - 15 Receptacles for game (5)
 - 16 Spoil the beauty of girl's shape (9)
 - 18 They tell tales about railway staff (9)
 - 21 Mount for a musketeer (5)

- Down**
- 1 Transfers allegiance on discovering faults (7)
 - 2 Lord's Day Observer perhaps (5,5)
 - 3 They have an open mind on cost in gas supply (5)
 - 4 Belief in Adam? (5)
 - 5 They are useful when reports need to be hushed up (5)
 - 6 Shakespearean said to be useful at reception (5)
 - 7 Yorkshire schoolmaster of considerable prominence (11,4)
 - 8 Rose ruined by die-back (7)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,736

- 13 Turns to the subject of modern clothes (9)
- 14 Brutalise a Milesian perhaps (9)
- 15 Freeman the traitor? (7)
- 17 Tried an experiment on journalist (7)
- 18 Right woman to capture English bird (5)
- 20 Dispatch with drug (5)

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I awake with a pain in my kidneys. "Oh Christ, what is it this time?" says my wife, noticing the signs of wild panic. "Kidneys," I say. "It could be an early symptom of impending renal failure."
Matthew Norman's hypochondria

G2 page 13

